



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

14 April 2015

Time 5.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Executive
Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Andrew Johnson (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Roger Lawrence (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Paul Sweet

Conservative

Liberal Democrat

Quorum for this meeting is two Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

Contact Linda Banbury
Tel/Email 01902 555040 or linda.banbury@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting - 24 March 2015** (Pages 5 - 8)
[For approval]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider as necessary]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 5 **External funding update** (Pages 9 - 16)
[To receive an update on external funding opportunities and to provide necessary approvals to enable the delivery of projects]
- 6 **Progress in developing a Smart City Strategy** (Pages 17 - 36)
[To endorse the proposal to adopt the EU framework for Smart City developments and agree the approach to driving forward the Smart City agenda]
- 7 **Delivery of the affordable warmth grant assistance using the Surefire framework** (Pages 37 - 40)
[To approve the use of the Surefire framework to install energy efficiency measures in vulnerable households across the city]
- 8 **Schedule of Individual Executive Decisions** (Pages 41 - 46)
[To note the summary of decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Member in consultation with the relevant employee]
- 9 **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below.]

PART 2 - EXEMPT ITEMS, CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 10 **School Capital Programme 2015/16** (Pages 47 - 54)
[For approval of detailed projects for schools capital Information relating to the

- maintenance, relevant delegations to execute the works and to note resources available to implement the programme]
- 11 **School Delegated Budgets Licensed Deficit Scheme** (Pages 55 - 64)
To endorse the process to be taken with schools]
- 12 **Declaration of sites for disposal and disposal strategy** (Pages 65 - 92)
[To declare surplus and agree disposal of various sites]
- 13 **Department for Communities and Local Government (Magistrates' Court) land, Darlington Street** (Pages 93 - 100)
[To seek authority for acquisition and delegate authority for agreement to acquisition price]
- 14 **Strategic Procurement - award of contracts for works, goods and services** (Pages 101 - 120)
[To award contracts and delegate authority to execute the contracts in respect of the recommendations as required]
- 15 **Grant application 2015/2016 - Grand Theatre** (Pages 121 - 124)
[To approve grants for revenue support for revenue support in 2015/16 and delegate authority to the Director of Governance to execute the funding agreement]
- 16 **Grant application 2015/2016 - Lighthouse Media Centre** (Pages 125 - 128)
[To approve grants for revenue support for revenue support in 2015/16 and delegate authority to the Director of Governance to execute the funding agreement]
- financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Para (3)
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Para (3)
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Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Minutes - 24 March 2015

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Cllr Roger Lawrence (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Paul Sweet

Employees

Linda Banbury	Democratic Support Officer
Keith Ireland	Managing Director
Tim Johnson	Strategic Director - Place
Mark Taylor	Director of Finance

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Andrew Johnson. The Vice-Chair, Councillor Roger Lawrence assumed the Chair for the meeting.

An apology for absence was also submitted on behalf of Councillor Elias Mattu who was due to present the report at agenda item 6.
- 2 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Reynolds declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 14, specifically in relation to the provision of Children's Centres.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting - 3 March 2015**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 be approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5 Update on schools balances**

Councillor Page introduced the report, which updated the Panel on the actions taken with regard to those schools that reported a high level of balances at the end of 2013/14. He pointed out a typographical error at section 3.1 of the report in that the date of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel should read 9 September 2015.

Resolved:

- 1) That the action taken with regard to schools with surplus balances, as detailed at section 3 of the report, be endorsed.
- 2) That a further report be presented in September 2015 on Local Authority maintained schools balances for 2014/15.

6 **Arts Council Funding Agreement**

Councillor Lawrence introduced the report, seeking delegated authority to sign off the funding agreement between Wolverhampton City Council and the Arts Council of England as part of the funding agreement by 27 March 2015.

Resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Cabinet member of Leisure and Communities and Strategic Director Place to enter into an agreement with the Arts Council in relation to the National Portfolio Funded contemporary arts and craft programme at the Art Gallery and Bilston Craft Gallery 2015-18.

7 **Revenue Budget Monitoring**

Councillor Lawrence introduced the report, which detailed a projection of the likely revenue outturn position, compared with the Council's approved revenue budgets for 2014/15 and related targets.

The Panel noted that the projected outturn for the General Fund was a net underspend of £9.2 million (-3.72%) against the net budget requirement of £247.6 million. This, combined with the receipt of an additional Business Rates support grant totalling £2.7 million in 2014/15, would result in a contribution of £1.9 million to general fund reserves during the year, rather than drawing down almost £9.9 million of general fund reserves to balance the budget in 2014/15 as originally budgeted for.

Resolved:

1. That the use of £140,000 from the Efficiency Reserve be approved, to fund an invest to save savings proposal 'Transitioning from Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to Community Led Economic Development-Stage 2.
2. That the use of £68,000 from the Regeneration Reserve be approved, to fund various regeneration priorities as detailed at table 7 of the report.
3. That the use of £20,000 from the Local Strategic Partnership Reserve be approved, to fund the set-up of the Wolverhampton Skills Commission, to ensure that Wolverhampton has an appropriately skilled workforce to support the City's economic growth.
4. That approval be given to the establishment of expenditure budgets within the 2014-15 approved budget for grant funding streams obtained within the year, as detailed at section 4.0 of the report.
5. That approval be given to the write-off of two sundry debts that individually exceed £5,000, as a result of liquidation and a deceased debtor, as detailed at Appendix F to the report.
6. That approval be given to two virements totalling £935,000, for a service transfer between service directorates in addition to a budget transfer between directorates, as detailed at Appendix G to the report.

8 **Improvements Programme - Bereavement Services**

Councillor Reynolds introduced the report, which sought approval to undertake improvements to facilities at the crematorium and cemeteries funded from the cemeteries and crematorium reserve fund.

Resolved:

That the following proposals to improve facilities at the crematorium and cemeteries, funded from the cemeteries and crematorium reserve fund, be approved:

- a) Increase seating capacity of the west chapel at the crematorium;
- b) resurface worn roads and footpaths at the crematorium;
- c) installation of concrete plinths for memorials, and
- d) installation of Wesley music system at the crematorium.

9 **Customer Service Standards Report**

Councillor Reynolds introduced the report, which proposed the introduction and implementation of a set of clear, easily understandable and accessible corporate customer service standards for the City of Wolverhampton Council.

Resolved:

That the corporate customer service standards be approved.

10 **Schedule of Individual Executive Decisions**

Councillor Lawrence introduced the report.

Resolved:

That the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions, approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees, be noted.

11 **Exclusion of press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act, in respect of the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information).

12 **Transfer of Shops portfolio**

Councillor Bilson introduced the report, which sought approval to the principle of transferring a number of shops, currently held within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), into the General Fund.

Resolved:

That approval be given to the principle of appropriating an element of the portfolio of shops currently held within the Housing Revenue Account into the General Fund asset register in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 as at 1 April 2015.

13 **The Haven, 103 Salop Street**

Councillor Bilson presented a report, which detailed issues requiring consideration in order to reach a decision on the request by the Haven for the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the freehold, 103 Salop Street.

Resolved:

- 1) That a grant of a certain term to the Haven's existing lease at 103 Salop Street be approved, on a short-term basis to January 2017.
- 2) That the Strategic Land and Property Board's categorisation of 103 Salop Street as a Strategic Asset, being located in a strategic regeneration area and as such not currently surplus to Council requirements, be endorsed.
- 3) That approval be given to the strategy for the Council to work with the Haven to find a solution to meeting their accommodation requirements in the City Centre.

14

Strategic Procurement - award of contracts for works, goods and services

Councillor Lawrence introduced the report, relating the award of various contracts.

Resolved:

1. That the award of contracts for the provision of Children's Centres to each of the Accountable Bodies listed in the report for one year with an option to extend for a further year, at a total cost of £9,379,360, be approved.
2. That the award of a contract to BT Global, of 81 Newgate Street, London, EC1A 7AJ, for the supply, installation and maintenance of backhaul circuits, the wireless network and the associated equipment (UTCMS) at a total contract value of £1.5 million and that a collaborative agreement be entered into with partner authorities for the provision and delivery of this contract.
3. That a Access Agreement be entered into with Scape in order to call off the framework.
4. That the award of a five year contract be approved, for the provision of CCTV circuits provided by BT Redcare at a total contract value of £501,040.
5. That approval be given to a waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to enter into a revised contract with Healthwatch Wolverhampton until 31 March 2016 at a cost of £195,000 per annum.
6. That approval be given to a waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to facilitate a six month contract extension to the contract for Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) at an estimated cost of £106,592 (£34,652 for Wolverhampton).
7. That authority be delegated to the Director of Governance to execute contracts as required in respect of the above decisions.



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

14 April 2015

Report title	External Funding Update	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keren Jones	
Originating service	City Economy	
Accountable employee(s)	Heather Clark Tel Email	Service Development Manager 01902 555614 Heather.clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Agree for Wolverhampton City Council to submit outline proposals for European Structural Funds for Wolverhampton and on behalf of the Black Country for strategically important areas and delegate authority to the Cabinet members for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity (SME competitiveness), Schools Skills and Learning (youth employment initiative) and City Services (low carbon) in consultation with the Cabinet member for Resources and Strategic Director for Place.
2. Agree to grant Public Health Replacement Funding to Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) to run a pilot project around personal budgeting support in advance of the rollout of Universal Credit
3. Give permission to spend against the Broadband Voucher scheme and approval to build in the capital budget and to bid for Women and Broadband Challenge Fund.

4. Give permission to spend against the Broadband Voucher scheme and approval to build in the capital budget and to bid for Women and Broadband Challenge Fund.
5. Agree to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover restoration works to the Civic Halls organ and promote its heritage.
6. Approve a revenue budget of £107,390 for the Museum Resilience Fund that is fully funded through grant funding.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on external funding opportunities in particular European Structural funding, advise on strategically important bids that Wolverhampton City Council will lead on behalf of the Black Country and seek necessary approvals to enable the delivery of externally funded projects.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report on 20 January 2015 giving an update on bidding activity and progress on externally funded projects. The intention is to provide ongoing quarterly funding updates, rather than reporting separately on each individual external funding opportunity. This report provides an update for the fourth quarter of the 2014/5 financial year. The report is organised around the themes in the Council's new Corporate Plan Framework.

3.0 European Union Structural and Investment Funds

- 3.1 The Black Country European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy, developed on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), outlines the Black Country's priorities for allocating European funding between 2014 and 2020. The launch of the programme was delayed by ongoing negotiations between the European Commission and Government. The national operational programmes were approved February 2015 enabling the first call for proposals for the following priorities from 20 March 2015:
 - Priority 1: Innovation
 - Priority 3: Small medium sized enterprises (SME) competitiveness
 - Priority 4: low carbon
 - Priority 1: Inclusive Labour Markets - Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)Further calls for ICT revenue and priority 6 environment will follow in a further call for proposals in June 2015.
- 3.2 The Black Country ESIF Strategy outlined a number of strategic intervention areas. Although the bidding process will be a competitive process, the Black Country have identified a number of strategically important projects for which a consortium of partners will be formed. The lead local authority partner for each of the proposed project is set out below. Delivery will be across the Black Country:

National Priority	Black Country Strategic Intervention Area	Strategic Projects	Lead
Priority 2: ICT	1.4 business support for growth and improved	Black Country Broadband Demand	Wolverhampton City Council

	productivity	Stimulation	
Priority 3: SME competitiveness	1.1 growth hub	Growth Hub	Wolverhampton City Council
	1.2 inward investment, international trade and exporting	Invest Black Country	Walsall MBC
	1.6 support for local growth clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and creative • Visitor economy • Health and social care • Food and drink 	Wolverhampton City Council Dudley MBC Walsall MBC Sandwell MBC
1.2 youth employment initiative	4.2 young people and unemployment	Support for 15-18 year old young people not in employment education or training.	Walsall MBC

3.3 There are currently no plans for Black Country local authorities to lead bids for the following national priorities and strategic intervention areas, however Council officers are helping to promote these opportunities, be a delivery partner in local consortia and support other partners to bid, in order to maximise benefit for Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

National Priority	Black Country Strategic Intervention Area	Partner bidding opportunities
Priority 1: Innovation	2.1 increasing SME demand and capacity for innovation	The University of Wolverhampton is in discussion with other universities across the West Midlands and nationally to bid for opportunities.
	2.2 infrastructure for innovation	This funding is being looked at to fund eligible elements of Springfield Brewery. The bid will be led by the University of Wolverhampton.
Priority 3: SME competitiveness	1.2 inward investment, international trade and exporting	It is likely that local providers of UKTI will be for this funding opportunity. It will be presented as a product under the Black Country Growth Hub.
	1.3 SME access to finance report	The Black Country is part of a West Midlands cross-LEP project to set up a financial engineering instrument to benefit local businesses
	1.4 business support for growth and improved productivity	It is likely that local providers of manufacturing advice service and growth accelerator will bid for this funding opportunity.
	1.5 enterprise support for new business creation	The University of Wolverhampton is looking at a high growth/graduate start-up programme whilst local enterprise organisations are looking at a generic start up programme
Priority 2: skills	4.1 skills for growth	Walsall is leading the relationship with match

for growth		funder the Skills Funding Agency on behalf of the Black Country. The opportunity is being promoted through Wolverhampton Employability Partnership to encourage local providers to tender to deliver.
1.2 youth employment initiative	4.2 young people and unemployment	Discussions are underway with local partners working with young people not in employment, education and training who can provide clean match funding.
1.1 access to employment	4.3 employment support for over 25's	Wolverhampton is leading the relationship with match funder the Big Lottery on behalf of the Black Country. Black Country Consortium is co-ordinating the process to identify lead bidding organisations/consortia and delivery partnerships which can include statutory partners such as Adult Education and Economic Inclusion service.
1.3 active inclusion	4.4 Social Inclusion	Wolverhampton is leading the relationship with match funder the Big Lottery on behalf of the Black Country. Wolverhampton City Council could be part of the delivery partnership.

3.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council is responsible for the management of a dedicated officer to develop the low carbon and environment pipeline:

Priority 4: Low carbon	3.3 supporting energy efficiency and the green economy	A dedicated officer has been appointed to develop the low carbon pipeline across the Black Country. Projects that can be funded include those that support enterprises and households to reduce energy consumption and reduce energy consumption of public buildings and promote renewal energy.
Priority 6: Environment	3.1 sustainable urban centres and employment sites	Discussions the European Commission are under way to identify opportunities to fund derelict land that fall within the eligibility criteria.
	3.2 improving and exploiting our green and blue infrastructure	A dedicated officer has been appointed to develop the environment pipeline across the Black Country. Projects that can be funded include those that support habitats to attain better conservation status so could support projects such as Bradley Arm canal.

4.0 Update on other External Funding Sources

4.1 Wolverhampton City Council is working both internally and with external partners to support the development of a strong project pipeline to maximise resources secured from European structural funds.

4.2 Place – Stronger Economy

The following external funding bids have been supported by the City Council under the “Place” corporate priority:

Funding source	Description of Project(s) to be funded	Funding	Approval Required
Broadband Delivery UK	Broadband Vouchers: as agreed by Cabinet Resources Panel on 3 March 2015, Wolverhampton City Council will administer on behalf of the Black Country the Broadband Voucher scheme offering grants of up to £3,000 to businesses to connect to superfast broadband. Up to £40 million is available nationally on a first come first service basis Outcome: Wolverhampton businesses connected to superfast broadband	10% of vouchers issued can be retained for project management and demand stimulation	Permission to capitalise and spend against budget
Government Equalities Officer	Women and Broadband Challenge Fund: help women boost their economic well-being by taking full advantage of superfast broadband to either start a business or work from home. Bid deadline 29 May 2015. Decision: 29 June 2015. Outcome: women supported to start-up businesses	Up to £75,000 (no match funding required)	Permission to submit a bid
Museum Resilience Fund	To develop a business plan to further develop joint working with the University of Wolverhampton as part of the long term future of Wolverhampton Art Gallery looking at different models of delivery. Outcome: sustainability of Wolverhampton Art Gallery	£107,390 secured	
Heritage Lottery	Civic Hall and Heritage: in addition to the funding secured from Local Growth Fund, a bid is being developed to fund necessary repairs to the Civic Hall Organ. A recent meeting with the National Archives Organisation recommended that this bid should be widened to include the display of	Circa. £1million	Permission to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery

	<p>Civic Halls and archive material once the refurbishment period is complete. This could also include a temporary exhibition during the Civic Halls refurbishment period itself.</p> <p>Outcome: refurbishment of civic hall organ and increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>European Regional Development Fund is also being explored under support for local growth clusters creative and cultural.</p>		
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4.3 People - Stronger Communities

The following external funding bids have been supported by the City Council under the “People – Stronger Communities” corporate priority:

Funding source	Description of Project(s) to be funded	Funding	Approval Required
Public Health Replacement Fund	<p>In view of the strong link between debt and mental health, resources have been secured from the public health replacement fund to fund a project around personal budgeting support to pilot an approach in advance of the rollout of Universal Credit which will require claimants to receive their benefits monthly and pay their rent direct.</p> <p>Outcome: better budgeting skills and reduced demand on council services.</p>	£41,000	Agreement to allocate a grant to CAB to deliver the pilot

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The Black Country LEP has been indicatively allocated €177m of EU Structural and Investment Fund monies (including ERDF and ESF funds) to deliver interventions over the period 2014-20. All outline bids submitted are allocated on a competitive basis and Councillors will be updated with progress should these be developed further.
- 5.2 The Broadband Voucher scheme is a demand led scheme. At this stage, the Council are aiming to issue vouchers to 350 Black Country SME’s (one percent of Black Country SME’s in line with national average). This would amount to £1,050,000 vouchers issued based on maximum voucher value or £700,000 based on an average voucher issued £2,000. Wolverhampton City Council can also claim a further 10% of the Broadband Vouchers issued to cover the cost of project management. Wolverhampton submit claims to BDUK on a quarterly basis to claim back vouchers issued and submit a claim for 10% of vouchers issued towards the cost of project management. This report seeks approval to establish a capital budget for the Broadband Voucher Scheme. It is recommended, based on national averages, that this budget should be £770,000 (£700,000 grants and £70,000 project management) and should be reviewed quarterly as part of normal capital programme monitoring.

5.3 Approval is also sought to establish a revenue budget within Adult and Cultural Learning of £107,390 for the Museum Resilience Fund. This is fully funded through grant secured.

5.4 Public Health Replacement funding replaces resources lost to the savings programme. This report seeks approval to grant one off payment of £41,000 to Citizen Advice Bureau. Proposals have been submitted to extend this by a further year. Should these be successful approval is sought to release second year funding of £41,000 to Citizen Advice Bureau. Any learning from this will inform future project development to draw down resources from European Structural funding. [ES/26032015/Z]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 External funding opportunities are subject to grant agreement. Cabinet Resources Panel agreed on 3 March 2015 to enter into the grant agreement for the Broadband Voucher scheme. Depending on the outcome of the bidding process, further reports will be bought seeking the necessary approvals. RB/23032015/Z.

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 External funded projects must evidence positive equalities implications as part of the bidding process. The social inclusion strand will have positive equalities impact since its activities target those furthest away from the labour market who experience multiple barriers.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 External funded projects must evidence positive sustainability implications. There is a specific priority under ERDF around low carbon and a dedicated officer has been appointed to develop projects thereby maximising benefit to Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 The cost of project management and additional staffing resources will be built into bids.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications to this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- Cabinet (Resources) Panel 20 January 2015 update on external funding
- Cabinet (Resources) Panel 3 March 2015 Rollout of Broadband Vouchers

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Cabinet (Resources) Panel

14 April 2015

Report title Progress in developing a Smart City Strategy

Decision designation AMBER

Cabinet member with lead responsibility Councillor Andrew Johnson
Resources

Key decision Yes

In forward plan Yes

Wards affected All

Accountable director Keith Ireland

Originating service ICT

Accountable employee(s) Andy Hoare Head of Service, ICT

Tel 01902 554563

Email Andy.hoare@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Heather Clark Service Development Manager,
City Economy

Tel 01902 55614

Email Heather.clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report to be/has been considered by

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Endorse the proposal to adopt the EU framework for Smart City developments.
2. Agree the best approach to driving forward the Smart City agenda branding as a sub-brand of existing brandings existing initiatives as Smart, developing a strong pipeline of projects and seeking funding opportunities and engaging at a wider level to promote Smart City thinking within the council and among partners driving the agenda at sub-regional and regional level.

3. Endorse that the lead for the overall Smart City agenda be moved from ICT service to City Economy service within the Place Directorate with the ICT service continuing to provide technical support and guidance
4. Endorse the priority given to Smart Governance initiatives that promote and support public participation in and transparency of Council decision-making and service delivery.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform councillors of progress in developing a Smart City Strategy for Wolverhampton, as part of improving and promoting the city's offer to businesses, investors, developers, visitors and residents.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Positioning Wolverhampton as a Smart City forms part of improving our city offer and comparative competitiveness. By capitalising on technology and encouraging innovation across the city, we can make the city of Wolverhampton a more attractive place to live, work and invest.
- 2.2 Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report on 11 November 2014 reviewing the feasibility of a public wifi service for the City. The report noted advice from consultants that "business cases for public wifi may be more effective as part of a larger city-wide digital strategy encompassing digital inclusion, support for local businesses and economic growth, cross-sector partnerships, tourism, and "Smart City" technology initiatives for managing urban infrastructure" (paragraph 3.2). The Panel asked for a Smart City Strategy to be developed.

3.0 Progress and current status

- 3.1 Research was carried out into literature and publicity around Smart Cities in the UK, EU and globally. It is clear from this that the Smart City concept is still very new and there is no general agreement on what it means at the practical level. The most common factor is the use of ICT as an enabler, drawing together and making available data from a range of sources (including real-time metrics). This can be analysed and used to help support, inform and manage decision-making and operational tasks as well as provide new business opportunities and empower citizens. However the technologies involved typically are not the kind of business process automation found in traditional corporate ICT systems.
- 3.2 To provide a foundation for further development of the Smart City concept in Wolverhampton, it is proposed to adopt a framework used by the European Parliament in a recent study of Smart City activities throughout the EU. The framework uses six categories of activity:
 - Smart Governance
 - Smart Economy
 - Smart Mobility
 - Smart Environment

- Smart People
- Smart Living

- 3.3 Despite Wolverhampton's strong superfast broadband availability at 93%, covering 103,550 dwellings and 236,400 people, there are several areas which do not have access to superfast broadband correlating with the city centre and key business areas, restricting our ability to become a Smart City. The Black Country has been awarded £12.2 million aimed at extending the availability of high-speed fibre broadband to 98 per cent of homes and businesses across the area in less than three years excluding Wolverhampton city centre. Cabinet (Resources) panel on 3 March 2015 received a report on the rollout of broadband vouchers scheme starting 1 April 2015 for one year on a first come first service basis. This could address the gap in superfast broadband in Wolverhampton city centre and also allow a shorter term solution to slow broadband speeds on our business parks. However the infrastructure alone will not be sufficient to making Wolverhampton a "Smart City".
- 3.4 A number of activities currently under way in Wolverhampton and the Black Country can be aligned with the framework, allowing them to be presented as Smart City initiatives. Appendix 2 outlines these in full detail. A Black Country Digital Strategy is being developed bringing together a range of initiatives including the local broadband plan, broadband vouchers and digital inclusion.
- 3.5 **Smart Governance:** initiatives in the smart governance category are attractive to local authorities because typically they can be implemented by the council alone and with little or no capital investment; the main cost is usually staff time. The most common kinds of initiative in this category centre on encouraging and supporting public participation in local democracy, and publishing council data to be exploited by citizens and businesses and to promote transparency. For example, putting annual budget consultations online to improve engagement and online petitions and consultations. Wolverhampton has projects of this kind under way and it is proposed that they should be branded as Smart City initiatives.
- 3.6 **Smart Economy:** the benefits of technology in stimulating economic growth is recognised with highly digitalised small medium sized enterprises (SMEs) growing faster, however studies suggest that without demand stimulation, only 15% of UK businesses will benefit. Therefore a key part of the Black Country broadband demand stimulation plan is to raise awareness of the benefits, increase the take-up and usage by businesses and encourage product and process innovation. Wolverhampton City Council is the accountable body for the Black Country Optimising Business Technology project which aims to support businesses to encourage the take-up and utilisation of technology. The Council is also administering on behalf of the Black Country the rollout of the broadband voucher scheme. In addition, the University of Wolverhampton is proactive in the Smart Economy agenda showcasing the latest technology and demonstrating practical applications at their Visualisation Centre on Wolverhampton Science Park.
- 3.7 **Smart Mobility:** many Smart City initiatives are already supported by the West Midlands Local Transport Plan and being developed at the level of the Black Country or West

Midlands metropolitan area in partnership with the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), Centro, other councils, transport operators and other partners. For example, Urban Traffic Control uses smart technology for traffic control and real time information updates. In view of this it is proposed that additional initiatives of this kind should be pursued through existing partnerships and any new arrangements which may arise, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority. Others are being developed locally and funding opportunities are being explored through the current European Structural Fund call for projects

- 3.8 **Smart Environment:** Smart City thinking emphasises improvements in environmental outcomes such as reduction of carbon emissions and overall efficiency in the use of resources. Many such initiatives are already being pursued locally or at the level of the Black Country or metropolitan area through partnerships with agencies such as local authorities, utilities such as water, power and telecoms and the building supply and construction industries. The Council is developing energy management and generation in council properties including solar and biomass.
- 3.9 **Smart People:** the Black Country demand stimulation plan outlines the approach to getting residents online and taking up superfast broadband by encouraging those online to upgrade and those not online to get online, including supporting those lacking capability or skills to get online, building self-reliance and encouraging home access. Being digitally connected can have significant benefits for our residents including increasing educational performance, chances of getting into employment and boosting lifetime earnings. It can also help to reduce poverty by providing access to cheaper services, health and reduce isolation. The Wolverhampton Digital Inclusion Strategy outlined the key actions to get residents online including ensuring adequate public access points in communities for those without home access and ensuring support is available for those that lack capability or skills to use technologies. Further work is being undertaken in advance of the rollout of Universal Credit in Wolverhampton between December 2015 and April 2016. A range of ICT training is available across Wolverhampton ranging from basic getting online in community venues to courses at a range of levels from adult education, City of Wolverhampton College to the University of Wolverhampton.
- 3.10 **Smart Living:** covers a range of lifestyle, behavioural and cultural initiatives. Housing Associations are looking at Smart technology around assisted living, enabling older people to live for longer in their home, and the NHS are also use Smart technology to enable people to control their condition at home, for example by remotely monitoring key health information such as blood pressure. A range of council services and other public and private sector agencies including Public Health, Wolverhampton Homes, housing associations, house builders, cultural organisations and NHS Trusts will need to be engaged to explore further developments in these areas within the context of the Smart City strategy.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 The work undertaken demonstrates that Smart City is not purely an internal ICT issue. Rather it is integral to the positioning of the city and delivering the council and its partners wider regeneration, economic development, environmental and social aims. Establishing Wolverhampton as a credible Smart City Strategy has synergies with planning policy where the Black Country Core Strategy, Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans present a vision aligned with Smart City thinking. Promoting such thinking requires partnership across a range of subject areas and agencies covering the public, private and voluntary sectors. It is therefore proposed that the lead for this initiative is moved from the ICT Service to City Economy service within the Place Directorate.
- 4.2 There is convergence between the aims of a Smart City Strategy and other areas such as planning policy, including the Black Country Core Strategy and Area Action Plans/ Neighbourhood Plans. In particular a Smart City Strategy could support the regeneration of the city in areas such as broadband and in turn be supported by policies in areas such as renewable energy and green roofs.
- 4.3 Much of our Smart City activity, such as Smart Economy and Smart Environment work, is currently undertaken at a Black Country, metropolitan or regional level. It therefore needs to be recognised that the most appropriate level for taking this work forward will vary depending on the area of activity. A Digital Strategy is currently being developed at Black Country level.
- 4.4 The next step is to consider the best approach to draw together the areas identified in Annex 2 and promote Smart City thinking. Rather than produce a new strategy, this may be more about seeking ways to engage with existing initiatives and strategies and identify additional opportunities, including seeking funding opportunities.
- 4.5 Funding opportunities include the current call for proposals funded through the European Regional Development Fund under priority axis 4 supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors. One investment priority is promoting low carbon strategies for urban areas which can include investments in smart grid, sustainable energy action plans and use of innovative technologies around low carbon transport. Further opportunities exist through Horizon 2020 which has two open bidding rounds: Smart Cities and Communities solutions integrating energy, transport, ICT sectors through large scale demonstration projects and development of system standards for smart cities and communities solutions. However Horizon 2020 is research focused and requires transnational co-operation.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 Existing initiatives have already secured over £12.0 million for existing initiatives across the Black Country. Where Wolverhampton are leading on schemes these are included in existing budgets. Budgetary approval for the Black Country Broadband Vouchers Scheme is also sought at this meeting under a separate report. This includes rollout of the scheme to SMEs plus 10% of any vouchers issued towards project management and demand stimulation activity. Publication of certain kinds of Council data in line with the

Code of Recommended Practice on Transparency attracts a small amount of incentive funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

- 5.2 There is currently no additional funding available for additional Smart City initiatives, however resources have been identified in the Black Country European Investment Strategy to stimulate demand and usage of ICT by businesses and to support low carbon projects. [ES/25032015/E]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 Initiatives that involve sensors, monitoring and other data-gathering may raise concerns about privacy. It is not proposed to undertake any projects of this kind without obtaining further legal advice. RB/23032015/X

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 Some aspects of Smart City developments focus on improving access to services of all kind. Typically this is achieved through digital channels. Digital inclusion is part of the Smart People strand and aims to support disadvantaged groups to become digital included thereby reducing inequalities.

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 The development of a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable city is in line with the key objectives of Smart City strategies and with the council's Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013-18. Projects are currently being developed to respond to a call for proposals for low carbon projects funded by European Structural Funding.

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 10.1 Several kinds of Smart City initiative involve new approaches to using built resources efficiently. At this stage it is not proposed to undertake any projects of this kind.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- 11.1 None.

Appendix 1: EU Smart City framework

The EU framework comprises six categories of projects and initiatives. Below are the six categories, with explanatory comments taken from the report “Mapping Smart Cities In The EU” (RAND Corporation, for the European Parliament, January 2014:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL-ITRE_ET%282014%29507480).

Smart Governance

- participation of citizens through ICT-enabled platforms
- transparency of city decision-making and enabling better feedback from citizens to civil servants
- citizen and business participants set the agenda
- open data strategies and platforms, crowdsourcing and co-creation platforms, etc
- open data projects
 - include citizen or user competitions to develop apps and other digital services (often reusing public data)
 - are regarded by participants and government officials as providing better Smart Governance and Smart Economy outcomes than conventional approaches
- tend to have only modest capital costs, most of which are already sunk
 - primary cost associated with such projects is the opportunity cost of time, which is provided by the participants
- joined up within-city and across-city governance, including services and interactions which link and [...] integrate public, private, civil [...] organisations so the city can function efficiently and effectively as one organism
- main enabling tool to achieve this is ICT (infrastructures, hardware and software), enabled by smart processes and interoperability and fuelled by data
- International, national and hinterland links are also important (beyond the city), given that a Smart City could be described as quintessentially a globally networked hub
- public, private and civil partnerships and collaboration with different stakeholders working together in pursuing smart objectives at city level
- Smart objectives include transparency and open data by using ICT and e-government in participatory decision-making and co-created e-services, for example apps
- can also orchestrate and integrate some or all of the other smart characteristics

Smart Economy

- e-business and e-commerce
- increased productivity
- ICT-enabled and advanced manufacturing and delivery of services
- ICT-enabled innovation, as well as new products, new services and business models
- smart clusters and eco-systems (e.g. digital business and entrepreneurship)
- local and global inter-connectedness and international embeddedness with physical and virtual flows of goods, services and knowledge

Smart Mobility

- ICT supported and integrated transport and logistics systems

- sustainable, safe and interconnected transportation systems can encompass trams, buses, trains, metros, cars, cycles and pedestrians in situations using one or more modes of transport
- prioritises clean and often non-motorised options
- Relevant and real-time information accessed by
 - the public, in order to save time and improve commuting efficiency, save costs and reduce CO₂ emissions
 - network transport managers, to improve services and provide feedback to citizens
- Mobility system users might also provide their own real-time data or contribute to long-term planning

Smart Environment

- Smart energy including renewables, ICT-enabled energy grids, metering, pollution control and monitoring, renovation of buildings and amenities, green buildings, green urban planning
- Resource use efficiency, re-use and resource substitution
- Urban services such as street lighting, waste management, drainage systems, and water resource systems that are monitored to evaluate the system, reduce pollution and improve water quality

Smart People

- e-skills
- working in ICT-enabled working
- access to education and training
- human resources and capacity management
- an inclusive society that improves creativity and fosters innovation
- enable people and communities to themselves input, use, manipulate and personalise data, for example through appropriate data analytic tools and dashboards, to make decisions and create products and services

Smart Living

- ICT-enabled life styles, behaviour and consumption
- healthy and safe living in a culturally vibrant city with diverse cultural facilities
- good quality housing and accommodation
- high levels of social cohesion and social capital

Appendix 2: Current Council projects that may be designated Smart City initiatives

The following initiatives are already under way:

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Governance	<p>Open Data and Transparency Wolverhampton CC now has Data Share in place in order to support the transparency agenda: http://data.wolverhampton.gov.uk/</p> <p>It is a simple programme that hosts Excel files, and allows them to be accessed by the public. The programme acts as a central storage point for a number of data sets and enables greater transparency for the authority. One of DataShare's main benefits is that it allows people to sort and filter data themselves. In this respect it is an efficient way of saving both time and money when processing FOI requests. Rather than employees having to response to FOI requests, this task can now be left to the public who do the filtering by using DataShare. Over the last six months, finance has been actively publishing datasets about the council's expenditure and this has seen a drop in the number FOI requests. The IG team is therefore keen to identify other areas where directorates can actively publish data.</p> <p>The authority is also required by law to publish a series of information sets as part of the Transparency Code, such as parking spaces, senior salaries and land assets. As of 1 January 2015 the first three of these sets went live meaning the council is currently meeting its statutory requirements. It will publish another series of data sets at the end of January.</p> <p>The Council is also currently developing a disclosure log to publish all FOIs responded to by the Council.</p>	Scrutiny and Transparency
Smart Governance	<p>Annual Budget Consultation The budget consultation invites public engagement via a number of channels including digital (web site and social media).</p>	Financial Services

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Governance	<p>Webcasting public meetings As part of its support for transparency and open government, the Council is evaluating the possibility of webcasting key public meetings (e.g. Council, Planning, Cabinet, etc.). Options were considered by Councillors earlier in the year.</p>	Democratic Services
Smart Governance	<p>Online Petitions Wolverhampton Council remains one of only a few local authorities to have a petitions committee. A group of residents can lodge a paper or online petition, have it heard by the committee and action to respond agreed. When a group is larger than 2,500 people, the petition is considered by the Full Council, following a presentation from the lead petitioners.</p>	Democratic Services
Smart Governance	<p>Social Media presence Wolverhampton is one of the leading local authorities for social media activity, with the second largest Facebook following in the country generating dynamic interaction between the Council and local people. Live tweets are sent out during key meetings (e.g. when the Council sets the budget).</p>	Democratic Services
Smart Governance	<p>Online consultation The Council has an online consultation portal, enabling local residents to respond to statutory and other consultations. In recent months this has included consultations on licensing policy, the future of bungalows in Duke Street, sexual health and the city centre area action plan. The Council also conducts a significant budget consultation exercise each year, including both an online survey and a series of community meetings in different localities.</p>	Democratic Services

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Economy	<p>Black Country Local Broadband Plan</p> <p>The Black Country has been awarded £12.2 million aimed at extending the availability of high-speed fibre broadband to 98 per cent of homes and businesses across the area in less than three years. Funding for the programme is made up of £2.9 million from the Broadband Delivery (BDUK), £6.4 million from BT and £2.9 million from the Black Country LEP's Growing Places Fund. Since gaps in Wolverhampton's superfast broadband coverage is primarily business areas, this will have greatest impact on local businesses.</p>	City Economy
Smart Economy	<p>Black Country Broadband Demand Stimulation Plan</p> <p>In recognition of the benefits that superfast broadband can play in stimulating economic growth and without a programme of demand stimulation and skills development, take-up amongst businesses would be low, this plan outlines Black Country's approach to stimulating demand amongst our businesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise awareness of businesses of the benefits of superfast broadband; 2. Increase number of businesses taking up and using superfast broadband; 3. Encourage product and process innovation enabled through superfast broadband. 	City Economy
Smart Economy	<p>Black Country Broadband Business Support Project</p> <p>Optimising Business Technology provides tailored business support to companies promoting the take-up and utilisation of superfast broadband. It aims to assist 180 businesses across the Black Country to increase productivity. Funding has been allocated for this activity in the new European programme.</p>	City Economy

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Economy	<p>Rollout of Black Country Broadband Vouchers Scheme The broadband connection voucher scheme provides up to £3,000 grants to SME's to cover the installation costs of a faster and better broadband service. Vouchers will be available in Wolverhampton from April 2015 available on a first come, first serve basis. The extension will allow Wolverhampton to address the gap in superfast broadband in Wolverhampton city centre and also allow a shorter term solution to slow broadband speeds on our business parks prior to the rollout of infrastructure as part of the Black Country Local Broadband Plan</p>	City Economy
Smart Economy	<p>The University of Wolverhampton are proactive in supporting a Smart Economy. Their ERDF funded Visualisation Centre, part of Innovation First, showcases the latest technology and demonstrating practical applications offered by technology. It is based adjacent to the Business Solutions Centre, home to the Black Country Growth Hub.</p>	University of Wolverhampton
Smart Economy	<p>The Business Champion's Innovation Series involved large strategic businesses supporting smaller businesses to innovate and become part of the supply chain. These included a large aerospace business talking about the use of computer simulations to help engineers design, modify, analyse and optimise their design without the need for costly prototypes. Another business talked about how social media can be a low cost, highly effective tool.</p>	Enterprise and Skills

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Mobility	<p>Urban Traffic Control (UTC)</p> <p>As part of a £26.6 million project funded by the Department for Transport, the seven West Midlands metropolitan councils are introducing smart technology for traffic control by moving traffic signals, cameras and variable message systems (VMS) to digital technology. Wolverhampton is ahead of other councils and is due to complete the transfer by summer 2015.</p> <p>From 5/1/15, the management of Walsall's UTC has been merged with that for Wolverhampton and Dudley, meaning an integrated system for managing the three council's UTC will be run from Wolverhampton.</p> <p>The council is also about to introduce automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) for journey time monitoring and bus lane enforcement in the city.</p>	Transportation
Smart Mobility	<p>Integrated Sustainable Transport System</p> <p>The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA)/ Centro have produced the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for West Midlands Metropolitan Area (WMMA), 'Making the Connections', which supports an integrated, inclusive, safe and low carbon transport system which supports use of low emission vehicles, public transport, walking and cycling.</p> <p>See: http://www.centro.org.uk/about-us/corporate-publications/local-transport-plan/</p>	West Midlands ITA/ Centro
Smart Mobility	<p>Sustainable Transport Projects - Wolverhampton</p> <p>The city council has a number of initiatives to promote sustainable and low carbon transport including:</p> <p>Staff Travel Plan - recently published - aimed at encouraging council staff to car share, use public transport, walk or cycle to work</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy - under development – aimed at promoting healthy travel within the city, in particular walking and cycling</p>	WCC Transportation

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Mobility	<p>Sustainable Transport Projects - West Midlands / Black Country</p> <p>The West Midlands ITA/ Centro and partner councils, including Wolverhampton City Council, are currently coming towards the end of a three-year, £48 million programme, 'Smarter Network, Smarter Choices', funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, to promote sustainable and low carbon travel along key corridors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4123/A459 between Wolverhampton, Dudley and Quinton • A41 Wolverhampton to West Bromwich <p>See: https://www.centro.org.uk/sustainability/smart-network-smarter-choices/</p> <p>A £3 million extension to this project for the Black Country will take place during 2015-16 and will cover the A449 Stafford Road corridor in Wolverhampton</p> <p>See: http://www.centro.org.uk/about-us/news/2014/black-country-istf-legacy/</p> <p>The Black Country councils and LEP are also developing a £4.6 million 'Managing Short Trips' programme for promoting walking and cycling for local journeys, funded by the government's Local Growth Fund.</p>	WCC Transportation, West Midlands ITA/ Centro
Smart Mobility	<p>Smart Ticketing</p> <p>The West Midlands ITA/ Centro are currently developing a smart ticketing project, in partnership with public transport operators, called 'Swift'. See: https://www.centro.org.uk/projects/in-development/swift-smartcard/</p>	West Midlands ITA/ Centro
Smart Mobility	<p>Real Time Information System/ Journey Planner</p> <p>The West Midlands ITA/ Centro has an Integrated Passenger Information Strategy and provides real time information and updates via its mobile phone app alongside its journey planner service, 'Network West Midlands'. See: https://www.centro.org.uk/media/17247/IPIS-1-.pdf http://www.centro.org.uk/about-us/news/2014/groundbreaking-step-brings-public-transport-information-to-google/ http://www.networkwestmidlands.com/</p>	West Midlands ITA/ Centro

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Mobility	<p>Low Emission Vehicles</p> <p>The city council is exploring opportunities to promote low emission vehicles (LEVs) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing electric vehicle charging points in car parks, on the highway and in new developments • Including LEV vehicles in the council's fleet • Promoting joined up charging infrastructure across the West Midlands • Supporting the vehicle supply chain and the local automotive industry • Applying for grant funding to schemes run by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) <p>These opportunities include working in partnership with other councils, West Midlands Low Emissions Towns and Cities Programme (LETCP), the West Midlands ITA/ Centro and Black Country LEP.</p>	WCC Transportation & Sustainability Services, West Midlands ITA/ Centro, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Smart Environment	<p>Smart Energy: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and energy networks</p> <p>The council commissioned a Renewable Energy and Carbon Reduction Study which reported in 2011: See http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1567&p=0</p> <p>This followed a regional study and has itself been followed by production of a Green Growth Plan for the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which identifies renewable and low carbon energy generation and smart energy grids as key areas for investment in the Black Country. See: http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/place/green-growth-plan</p> <p>The LEP is in the process of developing a range of projects in these areas to be included in proposals for funding by both the UK government (such as Growth Plan) and EU (such as European Structural & Investment Fund).</p>	WCC Planning/ Sustainability/ Economic Partnerships Services, Black Country LEP

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Environment	<p>ICT-enabled energy grids</p> <p>In support of the council's and LEP's aspirations, the council is involved in a smart grid project called Optimising Regional Clusters of Smart Electricity Networks (ORCSEN) which seeks to develop means of managing demand for power at a sub-station level, allowing locally-generated power to be stored, traded and distributed at a local level. This is intended to improve local economic resilience, reduce carbon emissions, reduce fuel costs and support the local economy. It is a pilot for wider smart grids across the Black Country, a project called Black Country Smart Power</p>	Sustainability Service, Planning
Smart Environment	<p>Energy management and generation in council property</p> <p>The council has a rolling fund which supports energy improvement measures on council property including more energy efficient boilers and lighting and a programme of solar panels and biomass boilers.</p>	WCC Energy Service
Smart Environment	<p>Energy management and generation in housing</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes has a rolling programme of improvements to the council's housing, through initiatives such as the Decent Homes Initiative, to improve its energy efficiency. It has implemented a number of renewable energy projects, including installing a biomass boiler at Heath Town estate, and is investigating further opportunities.</p> <p>The council's Housing Service has implemented a number of initiatives, to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency for vulnerable private sector households, produces a biennial report as required by the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)</p>	WCC Housing

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Environment	<p>Energy-efficient Buildings</p> <p>The council has developed a number of buildings with advanced levels of energy efficiency including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New primary schools at St Lukes (biomass boilers) and Willows campus (Green Park & Stowlawn) (green roof & biomass) + Bushbury Hill, Oak Meadow & Wilkinson (all Passivhaus) • Green roofs at Bantock Park changing rooms and Dovecotes Nursery • In partnership, BREEAM very good standard at the Wolverhampton Bus Station and excellent at the Interchange Block 10 development (currently under construction) 	WCC Property & Regeneration Services
Smart Environment	<p>Urban Services</p> <p>The council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a rolling programme of introducing energy-efficient street lighting and reduction in lighting of highway signs • Has improved its recycling rates from domestic waste • Is developing a programme to improve surface water management and reduce flooding • Is seeking to improve air quality through the Low Emission Towns & Cities Programme 	WCC Public Realm, Waste, Transport & Regulatory Services
Smart People	<p>Black Country Broadband Demand Stimulation Plan</p> <p>In summary of the benefits to residents to getting online, the Black Country's approach to stimulating demand amongst our residents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage residents already connected to upgrade to superfast broadband by raising awareness of availability, the benefits and methods of switching; 2. Encourage residents who are not connected to get online, including supporting those who lack the capability or skills to get online, build self-reliance and home access. 	City Economy

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart People	<p>Wolverhampton Digital Inclusion Strategy Recognises the benefits that digital inclusion can bring around digital by default, with transactions with government increasingly online e.g. online jobsearch, applying for benefits etc; skills and employment benefits; consumer benefits and access to cheaper services; and health and reducing isolation. Current activities are primarily focusing on encouraging residents who are not connected to get online, including supporting those who lack the capability or skills to get online, build self-reliance and home access by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure adequate public access points in communities in partnership with libraries and community organisations. 2. Ensure support is available for those that lack capacity or skills to use technology including rolling out digital mentor schemes providing support to complete online forms, set up e-mails, job search and online applications. 3. Influence resources to meet anticipated increase in demand due to welfare changes and rollout of Universal Credit 4. Seek the buy in from public sector agencies to become champions to promote the benefits and support residents along the journey. <p>Digital inclusion is one of the support structures being built into Universal Support Services activity to support transition onto Universal Credit (replacement for current out and in work benefits) which must be applied for and managed online.</p>	City Economy / Libraries
Smart People	<p>Access to education and training Online access and digital skills are increasingly important for education, training and employment. Home access to a computer and the internet can improve children's educational performance, being online could boost changes of getting employment lifetime earnings, people with ICT skills earn more. Adult education and other training providers provide support for people to improve their ICT skills.</p>	Adult Education
Smart People	<p>Building Schools for the Future As part of the Building Schools for the Future, £1 million was invested in ICT in schools. One school invested the resource in laptops for their students to take home.</p>	Building Schools for the Future

Proposed Category	Description	Lead Department/ Partner
Smart Living	Healthy & Safe Living The council has made healthy lifestyles and healthy eating a major priority with the launch of its Obesity Strategy in November 2014 and the launch of a range of web-based support and advice including the 'Million Miles/ Million Pounds' initiative which encourages residents to collectively walk, swim or cycle a million miles and to lose a million pounds in weight. The NHS is using Smart technology to enable people to control their condition at home, for example through remotely monitoring key health information.	WCC Public Health
Smart Living	Good Quality Housing The council's Local Plan, through the Black Country Core Strategy, and Housing Strategy seek to provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the city's residents and support the broader aims of a Smart City initiative. Housing Associations are using Smart technology around assisted living, enabling older people to live at home for longer.	WCC Planning/ Housing

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Cabinet (Resources) Panel

14 April 2015

Report title	Delivery of the Affordable Warmth Grant using the Surefire framework	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, Service Director, City Assets	
Originating service	Housing	
Accountable employee(s)	Mandy Findlay	Housing Improvement Officer
	Tel	01902 551346
	Email	Mandy.findlay@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended:

1. Approve the use of Walsall Housing Group's (WHG) Surefire Framework to deliver Wolverhampton City Council's Affordable Warmth Grant Housing Assistance programmes.
2. To approve the call off under the Surefire Framework in order to enable Wolverhampton City Council to enter into an Authorised Agreement with WHG and British Gas together with any other underlying contracts as part of the Affordable Warmth Grant Housing Assistance.
3. To delegate authority to the Cabinet member with lead responsibility for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, the Strategic Director Place and the Director of Governance to approve the contractual terms of the Authorised Agreement with WHG

and British Gas and any other underlying contracts as part of the Affordable Warmth Grant Housing Assistance.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Cabinet (Resources) Panel approves the use of the Surefire framework to install energy efficiency measures into vulnerable households across the City under the Council's Affordable Warmth Housing Assistance programmes.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Wolverhampton's Affordable Warmth Assistance provides energy efficiency measures for private sector households on a low income and at risk of chronic cold/damp related illnesses. The current criteria, was approved by Cabinet at its meeting of 10 April 2013.
- 2.2 The assistance is in the form of a non-repayable grant and enables the provision of appropriate heating and insulation works by an approved contractor to a grant maximum of £5000. Only 1 grant per property is allowed and the approximate average grant is £2700. There is currently an annual capital budget of £500,000. There is the demand to deliver approximately 200 grants per year, City wide.
- 2.3 The programme is delivered directly through the council's Housing Service.
- 2.4 There are currently 18,316 fuel poor households across the city (*DECC 2012 figures based on the Low Income/High Cost definition*) and approximately 200 excess winter deaths per year (*Public Health Framework*). Delivering the affordable warmth grant assists in reducing these figures.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 At present, the service is delivered through a local contractor, Domestic Gas Services. As these arrangements expired on 31st March 2015, the Council has currently temporarily suspended the processing of new applications pending the approval of the Surefire framework.

4.0 Proposed Contract

- 4.1 Due to the expiry of the existing arrangements as outlined in section 3 above, the Council is required to have in place a fit for purpose and properly procured delivery service in place in order to recommence delivery of the scheme. Options included an OJEU compliant procurement process to select a new delivery partner, or to utilise a joint framework agreement with other organisations.
- 4.2 The Council worked with other West Midlands housing authorities and housing providers to facilitate a regional delivery framework for domestic energy efficiency. Although the work reached quite an advanced state, uncertainty in national programmes for energy efficiency meant that such a framework was not achievable.

- 4.3 The local registered housing provider WHG (Walsall Housing Group), which was part of the consortium referred to in paragraph 4.2 above, decided to procure its own framework to deliver energy efficiency services. The procurement of the framework was undertaken through an OJEU compliant tendering exercise in 2012. Wolverhampton City Council (along with other partners across the West Midlands) is specifically referred to as a contracting authority in the OJEU notice and the contract award notice, which enables the Council to make use of the framework to deliver energy efficiency measures and programmes including installing energy efficiency measures to private sector households on an individual basis. The framework expires in 2022.
- 4.4 The framework is named “Surefire” with the contract being awarded to British Gas as the single approved supplier.
- 4.5 To make use of the Surefire framework, the Council needs to contract with WHG. The proposed contract between the Council and WHG will run from May 2015 – March 2017, with the option to extend for a further year if both parties are agreeable.
- 4.6 In order to cover some of the costs associated with the use of the framework, a fee of £25 per grant is payable to WHG by British Gas.
- 4.7 The framework has been slightly amended to ensure that the council is able to pay British Gas directly for works completed on individual private sector households.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The approved Housing Capital Programme has a budget of £500,000 per annum from 2014/15 to 2016/17 to fund the Capital Provision for the Affordable Warmth programme of the Private Sector Housing Assistance programme. The proposed delivery arrangements and scheme programme can be delivered within this capital allocation.
- 5.2 A value for money exercise has been carried out to compare the Surefire framework prices with the previous contract prices. A variety of installation and property types have been compared, including full/part central heating systems, boiler replacement and most house types. The framework was found to be an average of 16% cheaper on previous prices including the £25 fee. This represents an indicative annual saving of £80,000, which should enable up to 30 additional households to receive assistance.
[CF/24032015/K]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 confers powers on local housing authorities to improve living conditions in their area by providing direct or indirect assistance. The assistance can be given for a range of matters including repairing living accommodation, the adaptation or improvement of living accommodation. The assistance may be provided in any form i.e. grant or loan which may be unconditional or subject to conditions.

- 6.2 A local housing authority may not exercise the powers under The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 unless it has an adopted policy for the provision of assistance and the power is exercised in accordance with that policy. It is understood that the recommendations within this report are consistent with Wolverhampton City Council's Housing Assistance policy and its strategic objectives.
- 6.3 As detailed in the report, WHG carried a tender process in relation to the Surefire Framework on behalf of itself and a number of contracting authorities. Wolverhampton City Council is specifically referred to as a contracting authority in the OJEU notice and the contract award notice that procures the works of British Gas Trading Limited. The scope of the Surefire Framework is sufficient to enable Wolverhampton City Council to enter into an Authorising Agreement with Walsall Housing Group and British Gas Trading Limited and any other underlying contracts for the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Programme.
- 6.4 Procurement and Legal Services have been involved in providing legal advice in respect of the use of the Surefire Framework and call off during the period of the framework. Legal Service will continue to provide advice to ensure that the final contractual terms are fit for purpose.
[JA/23032015/H]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 Equalities implications have been considered throughout the process and in assessing the outcome. The affordable warmth grant is targeted at low income households. The beneficiaries of this scheme will include, but not be restricted to, residents living within areas of multiple deprivation. All successful applicants will be living in fuel poverty and suffering chronic ill health.

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 The affordable warmth grant supports the reduction of CO₂ emissions. At a national level this is in support of the Climate Change Act, 2008 and the government's Carbon Plan. At a local level this supports the Climate Local initiative, to which the council has become a signatory, the council's current Climate Change Strategy and its emerging Sustainability Strategy & Implementation Plan.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 All properties are within the private housing sector, therefore there are no Corporate Landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- Report to Cabinet 10 April 2013 Revisions to the Housing Assistance Policy
- Surefire Framework Agreement
- WHG Authorising Agreement



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

15 April 2015

Report title	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	All	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Support	
Accountable employee(s)	Laura Gilyead Tel Email	Graduate Management Trainee 01902 553219 Laura.gilyead@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees.

Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices

Part 1 – Open Items

1. Corporate

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor John Reynolds	Director of Governance	16 March 2015	Martyn Sargeant, 01902 555045
Title and Summary of Decision			
Appointment of Proper Officer: Register Office That the Cabinet Member for City Services, in consultation with the Director of Governance, approves the appointment of the Group Manager – Corporate Administration as the Proper Officer for the Register Office.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Phil Page	Director of Education	13 March 2015	Lucy Harris, 01902 556945
Title and Summary of Decision			
Independent Support That the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, in consultation with the Director of Education approves the spending of funding as per the contract briefing and notes the requirement for ring-fencing and possible carry forward.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Andrew Johnson	Director of Finance	2 April 2015	Sue Martin, 01902 554772
Title and Summary of Decision			
Discretionary Rate Relief – addition to the local scheme That the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance approves the policy detail on discretionary rate relief (transitional).			

2. People

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillors Samuels, Gibson and Johnson	Strategic Director, People; Service Director, Wellbeing; Director of Finance	5 March 2015	Neeraj Malhotra, 01902 558667
Title and Summary of Decision			
Healthy Child Programme: use of NHS Contract That the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing, Children and Families and Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director, People, Service Director Wellbeing and Director of Finance, provide approval for the use of the NHS Contract and deed of novation.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Val Gibson	Strategic Director, People	11 March 2015	Kevin Pace, 01902 556841
Title and Summary of Decision			
HeadStart Wolverhampton Project Funding That the Cabinet Member for Children and			

Families, in consultation with the Strategic Director, People, approves the allocation of HeadStart Big Lottery funding to 12 projects.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Steve Evans	Strategic Director, People	30 March 2015	Tony Ivko, 01902 555310
Title and Summary of Decision			
Deregistration of Blakenhall Resource Centre Residential Care Service That the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, in consultation with the Strategic Director, People, agrees to the deregistration of Blakenhall Community Resource Centre as a residential care home with the Care Quality Commission.			

3. Place

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	17 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
Heath Park Traffic Regulation Orders That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the recommended action to overrule traffic regulation order objections received following consultation on the proposed waiting and loading restrictions at Thorneycroft Lane, Prestwood Road, Milton Road, Bramerton Close, Hazelwood Drive and Coronation Road. Authorises the Director of Governance to subsequently implement the orders. 			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Strategic Director, Place	17 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
Highway Safety Inspection Policy 2015 That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Strategic Director, Place, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the updated Wolverhampton City Council Highway Safety Inspection Policy document for adoption as Council policy from 1 April 2015. Approves the proposal to annually review the document to ensure it remains in line with the Department for Transport's Code of Practice for highway inspections. Delegates authority to the Head of Service or Service Lead to revise site inspection frequencies and defect categorisations, with any significant changes reported to Cabinet. 			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	17 March 2015	Colin Noakes, 01902 551124
Title and Summary of Decision			
Discontinuance action seeking the removal of an advertisement hoarding on 22 High Street, Bilston, WV14 0EH That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, approves the use of powers under Regulation 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to take discontinuance action against an advertisement hoarding on the side of 22 High Street, Bilston.			

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	27 February 2015	John Healey, 01902 554007
Title and Summary of Decision			
Queen Street Gateway, Townscape Heritage Scheme – extension of consultancy contract			
That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, approves the grant conditions and application form for the Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Grants Scheme.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Economy	24 March 2015	Heather Clark, 01902 555614
Title and Summary of Decision			
Approval of Black Country Consortium subscription			
That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Economy, approves Wolverhampton City Council's 2015/16 subscription of £90,000 to Black Country Consortium from within existing budget allocations.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	31 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
Wolverhampton Youth Zone, highway works			
That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, delegates authority to the Director of Governance to enter into an agreement with Wolverhampton Youth Zone under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 for the highway works at the Worcester Street triangle development site and to grant a license under Section 177 of the Highways Act 1980 for the part of the building that overhangs the public highway.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	31 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
Former Goodyear Site, Stafford Road – Residential Development Phase Three – adoption of new roads			
That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, delegates authority to the Director of Governance to enter into an agreement with the developer under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980, in respect of Phase three of the new access roads at the former Goodyear Site, Stafford Road.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	31 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
Former Goodyear Site – Stafford Road – Main spine road Phase Four			
That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, delegates authority to the Director of Governance to enter into an agreement with			

the developer under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980, in respect of the main spine road Phase four at the former Goodyear Site, Stafford Road.			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	31 March 2015	Gwyn James, 01902 555755
Title and Summary of Decision			
<p>Former St Jude's Infant School site, Riches Street – adoption of new road That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegates authority to the Director of Governance to enter into an agreement with the developer under Section 38 and 278 of the Highways Act 1980, in respect of the new access road at the former St Jude's Primary School, Riches Street. 2. Approves the proposed revocation of the existing Traffic Regulation Order 'Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Street Parking Places Order 2010' as they relate to Riches Street. 			

Part 2 – Exempt Items

1. Corporate

None

2. People

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Elias Mattu, Councillor Andrew Johnson	Strategic Director, People, Director of Finance	1 April 2015	Richard Welch, 01902 552162 Andrea Fieldhouse, 01902 556224
Title and Summary of Decision			
<p>Bilbrook Football Club Capital Scheme That the Cabinet Members for Leisure and Communities and Resources, in consultation with the Service Director, Wellbeing and Director of Finance approve the transfer of a sum of capital funding from Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy to Bilbrook Football Club to support the redevelopment of club facilities at Pendeford Lane.</p>			

3. Place

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	17 March 2015	Karen Beasley, 01902 554893
Title and Summary of Decision			
<p>Low Hill Residential Repairs (pods) – Private Property Acquisitions That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, approves the completion of the purchase of 61 Old Fallings Crescent for the sum of £75,000 plus costs.</p>			
Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Councillor Peter Bilson	Service Director, City Assets	31 March 2015	Lisa Morgan,

Bilson	Assets		01902 554746
Title and Summary of Decision			
Approve contractors for delivery of Wolverhampton Home Improvement Service That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Service Director, City Assets, approves the appointment of contractors for specific work packages.			

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