

Council Meeting

23 September 2015

Time 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

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

Membership (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

Mayor Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)

Deputy Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus

Cllr Harbans Bagri

Cllr Harman Banger

Cllr Mary Bateman

Cllr Philip Bateman

Cllr Payal Bedi

Cllr Peter Bilson

Cllr Alan Bolshaw

Cllr Greg Brackenridge

Cllr Paula Brookfield

Cllr Ian Claymore

Cllr Craig Collingswood

Cllr Claire Darke

Cllr Bishan Dass

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal

Cllr Val Gibson

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss

Cllr Keith Inston

Cllr Jasbir Jaspal

Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal

Cllr Andrew Johnson

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur

Cllr Welcome Koussoukama

Cllr Roger Lawrence

Cllr Linda Leach

Cllr Elias Mattu

Cllr Lorna McGregor

Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Phil Page

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr John Rowley

Cllr Judith Rowley

Cllr Sandra Samuels

Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz

Cllr Stephen Simkins

Cllr Tersaim Singh

Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Cllr Paul Sweet

Cllr Bert Turner

Cllr Martin Waite

Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans

Cllr Christopher Haynes

Cllr Christine Mills

Cllr Patricia Patten

Cllr Arun Photay

Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Andrew Wynne

Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Information for the Public

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

Contact Adam Hadleylison Dennett
Tel/Email 01902 555043 or adam.hadley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 2nd floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Agenda

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 14)
[To consider the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 15 July 2015]
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

DECISION ITEMS

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Combined Authority governance review and scheme**
[To approve the governance and review scheme][**TO FOLLOW**]
- 6 **Audit Committee Annual Report - 2014/15** (Pages 15 - 24)
[To consider a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee during the 2014/15 year and to ask Council to approve the contents of the report]
- 7 **Treasury Management - annual report 2014/15 and activity monitoring quarter one 2015/16** (Pages 25 - 26)
[To provide Council with details of the treasury management activities carried out in 2014/15, together with performance against the prudential indicators previously approved by Council. It also provides a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the first quarter of 2015/16, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2015]
- 8 **Black Country Growth Deal - Grants to third parties** (Pages 27 - 28)
[To consider recommendations from Cabinet on grants to third parties to enable continuation of delivery of the Black Country Growth Hub and a grant to fund improvement works at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to be funded through Black Country Local Growth Fund monies, as part of the Cultural Capital programme]
- 9 **City Centre Area Action Plan - submission** (Pages 29 - 30)
[To consider a recommendation from Cabinet on a report relating to the key issues raised during consultation on the Publication City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) September and the submission of the Publication City Centre AAP and proposed minor modifications to the Secretary of State]

10

Questions to Cabinet Members

City Centre Bench

Councillor Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for City Assets (Councillor Bilson):-

"Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon the rationale for a stone bench sourced in China costing around £20,000 to be placed in the City Centre?"

City Centre Highways Layouts

Councillor Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for City Assets (Councillor Bilson):-

"Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon what criteria are being used to evaluate the outcomes of the new highway layout in the City Centre?"

Waste Recycling Centres

Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for City Environment (Councillor S.W. Evans):-

"Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon the full-year saving likely to be made through the current opening hours of the waste recycling centres at Shaw Road and Anchor Lane, when compared to the opening hours that applied before they were originally shortened?"

Interim or Agency Staff

Councillor Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Johnson):-

"Can the Cabinet Member advise Council on the number of posts within the authority filled by interim or agency-employed staff, at a cost to the authority of more than £600 per day or equivalent, and how many of these have been employed by the authority on that basis for more than six months?"

Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 15 July 2015

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus	Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Harbans Bagri	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Harman Banger	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Val Gibson	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Philip Bateman	Cllr Julie Hodgkiss	Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Payal Bedi	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Peter Bilson	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Alan Bolshaw	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	Cllr Andrew Johnson	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Ian Claymore	Cllr Welcome Koussoukama	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Cllr Bert Turner
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Bishan Dass	Cllr Elias Mattu	Cllr Daniel Warren
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Lynne Moran	

Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Christine Mills	Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Patricia Patten	Cllr Jonathan Yardley
Cllr Arun Photay	

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Paul Brown	Communications Advisor
Tracey Christie	Head of Legal
Tony Ivko	Service Director - Older People
Tim Johnson	Strategic Director - Place
Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Martyn Sargeant	Group Manager - Corporate Administration
Mark Taylor	Director of Finance

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hardacre, McGregor and Tersaim Singh, and from Keith Ireland, Managing Director.

2 Declarations of interest

Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council, and Mark Taylor, Director of Finance, declared a pecuniary interest in item seven, Amendments to the Constitution.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 May 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

Terror attacks

The Mayor invited Councillors to join with him in expressing profound sadness in relation to the recent terror attacks in France, Kuwait and Tunisia and the consequent deaths of many innocent people.

The late Mr Derek Allen

The Mayor reported with great sadness the death of Mr Derek Allen on Sunday 24 May 2015. He advised that he had attended Derek's funeral service with the Mayoress on Tuesday 23 June at Rakegate Methodist Church and extended the deepest sympathies of the Council to Cllr Claymore and Derek's family at this very sad time.

Those present stood in silent tribute to Mr Derek Allen and the victims of the recent terror attacks.

Dr James McElligott

The Mayor invited Councillors to join him in wishing Jim McElligott, the Council's Director of Education, a speedy recovery after he was recently taken ill while on holiday. He reported that Jim was now back home and awaiting further tests and advised that he would be sending a card to Jim, offering the good wishes of the Council.

The Queen's Birthday Honours

The Mayor reported that five people with connections to the city received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June:

- **Christine and John Whatton**, who have fostered numerous local children as part of the Council's Fostering for Wolverhampton team and who have been awarded MBEs for services to children.
- **Georgetta Holloway**, head teacher at Heath Park Academy in Wolverhampton, who received an OBE in recognition of her 20 years in education.
- **Jeremy Hobbs**, who received the BEM for his services to local charities, especially Compton Hospice.
- **Jane Redshaw**, awarded the MBE for services to the community and to charity in Wolverhampton.

He congratulated each of the recipients on their awards and thanked them on behalf of the Council and the city for their efforts and dedication.

Civic Events

The Mayor thanked those who were able to attend recent Civic events, specifically:

- Civic Sunday Service on 7 June.
- Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony on 22 June.
- Armed Forces Day parade on 27 June.

5 Future Space

Cllr Johnson outlined the imperative for the Future Space project, to undertake essential repairs to a 37 year old building and car park, in order that they can continue to operate efficiently and safely. He emphasised that the Council was considering the lowest cost option, whilst rationalising its property portfolio to get best value from its assets, and deliver an annual revenue saving of £500,000.

Cllr Yardley challenged the preparation of the cost estimates for alternative options, suggesting there was insufficient detail to make a robust comparison.

Cllr Thompson suggested that the proposed scheme was unpopular at a time when the Council was making cuts to key services. She supported Cllr Yardley's challenge that further cost evaluation should be carried out.

Cllr Lawrence advised that the Civic Centre was no longer fit for purpose. He noted that both public and private sector organisations faced the challenge of ensuring that buildings were in an appropriate state to facilitate the efficient conduct of the Council's business. He assured Councillors that robust advice had been sought from both employees and external advisers.

Cllr Gwinnett queried whether arrangements were already in place for existing buildings to be let out, per the proposals. He also queried the additional costs budgeted over and above those for the car park improvements and essential mechanical and electrical works.

Cllr Johnson assured Councillors that the development of the proposals had been robust. He referred to the risk assessment in the report and noted some key risks to the building and the Council's ability to continue to deliver key services.

It was proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and resolved:

That the Council approve an additional capital allocation of £390,197 for asset rationalisation and investment, and an additional allocation of £716,382 for car park repairs.

6 Corporate Plan

Cllr Thompson highlighted the measures in the corporate plan and the importance of effectively analysing whether the Council was achieving its objectives. She encouraged the Council to ensure every effort was made to achieve the targets, suggesting there was scope to be more ambitious in some areas.

It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Bilson, and resolved:

That the Council approve the Corporate Plan for 2015/16.

7 Amendments to the Constitution

Cllr Johnson explained that normally Constitution changes consequent upon legislation would be automatically incorporated but that, because of the posts affected by these amendments, advice had been received that they must be specifically approved by the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Thompson, and resolved that the Council:

1. Approve the following changes to the Constitution in order to comply with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015:

- (a) That the following definition be included:

“Protected Officers: The Protected Officers are the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the s.151 Officer.”

- (b) Article Four, The Full Council, section J be amended as follows:

“Confirming the appointment of the Head of Paid Service, Strategic Directors (as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989), the Monitoring Officer and the s.151 Officer.

“By way of a vote confirming the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the s.151 Officer after taking into account:

- any advice, views or recommendations of a Special Committee constituted for this purpose under 29.9 of the Employee Employment Procedure Rules (including the two independent members from the Standards Committee);
- the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal;
- any representations from the protected officer concerned.

“Confirming the dismissal of the Strategic Directors (as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).”

- (c) Employment Procedure Rule 29.5.4 be amended as follows:

“Any Special Appointment Committee will follow the procedure required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (“the Regulations”) as amended by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.”

- (d) Employee Employment Procedure Rule 29.9.1 be amended to include the Monitoring Officer and s.151 Officer.

- (e) Employee Employment Procedure Rule 29.5 be amended to include the following:

“Any Special Committee established for the purposes of the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the s.151 Officer will include the two independent members of the Standards Committee and will follow the procedure required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (“the Regulations”) as amended by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.”

2. To note that, upon agreement, the officers affected by these changes will be formally notified by Human Resources.

8 **Annual scrutiny report**

Cllr Simkins introduced the annual scrutiny report for 2014/15, commending Cllr O’Neill for his leadership of the scrutiny function over recent years.

It was proposed by Cllr Simkins, seconded by Cllr Findlay, and resolved:

That Council receive the annual scrutiny report for 2014/15.

9 **Capital budget outturn**

It was proposed by Cllr Bilson, seconded by Cllr Johnson, and resolved that the Council approve:

1. The revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £270.2 million, an increase of £49.1 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term.
2. The revised medium term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £271.2 million, an increase of £6.7 million from the previously approved programme.
3. The additional resources for eight new and 32 existing General Fund projects totalling £49.1 million and for ten existing HRA projects totalling £6.7 million.

4. The details of the capital financial strategy relating to: the approval of future capital projects, the declaration of identified underspends and the use of capital receipts to reduce the Council's need to borrow to fund the approved capital programme.

10 Questions to Cabinet Members

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Councillor Paul Singh asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member for City Environment advise Council upon the steps that the authority is prepared to make towards changing the opening out of the two household waste recycling centres in the City, at Shaw Road and Anchor Lane, given the continuation of long queues at weekends, and whether the extension of opening hours during at least some weekdays to allow people to use these facilities after work is under consideration?

Cllr Steve Evans confirmed that the opening hours had been under review and there was a possibility of extended opening hours in due course.

Cllr Singh asked what the timetable was for any changes.

Cllr Evans responded that extended opening hours would be in place at peak periods (such as bank holidays and weekends).

Government Funding

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources advise Council how much government funding is being received by Wolverhampton for all purposes in this financial year, and how much is anticipated to be due to Wolverhampton in the next financial year?

Cllr Johnson advised that total government revenue funding for 2015/16 was £426.6m, which included revenue support grant of £63.3m, top-up grant of £35.9m, new homes bonus of £3.2m and business rates support grant of £2.2m. He explained the balance of funding, totalling some £322m and consisting primarily of dedicated schools' grant, public health grant and housing benefits grants were 'passported' meaning the Council had little if any discretion over its distribution. He further noted a capital grant of £34.8m in 2015/16.

In terms of 2016/17, Cllr Johnson advised projected government support of £416.5m, including revenue support grant of £52.6m, top-up grant of £36.7m and new homes bonus of £4m. The projected balance of £323.2m was designated as described previously. He further advised a projected capital grant of £26.9m. He noted that the future figures must be treated with some caution, pending the autumn spending statement.

Car Park Charges

Councillor Paul Singh asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member for City Environment assure Council that there are, and will be, no plans to levy charges on all car parks in the city?

Cllr Steve Evans confirmed this.

Blue Badges

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adults advise the current waiting period for the renewal of Blue Badges for disabled parking between the customer's application and the delivery of the new badge back to them?

Cllr Mattu advised that there were currently 9,750 blue badges in circulation but that the number of applications had increased significantly over the past two or three years. He explained that the service worked to a 12 week turnaround and, over the past 12 months, the number of applications where this target had not been met was 150. He noted that the delay can sometimes be caused by an applicant not taking up an offered appointment and also advised that only six complaints had been received in the past 12 months. He outlined a remedial action plan that, over the next six weeks, should ensure that all customers will receive a response to their application within the 12 week target.

Cllr Thompson asked what support could be provided to those residents whose badges expired before a replacement was issued.

Cllr Mattu assured Councillors that extra support would be provided to anybody in difficulty as a result of a delay on the part of the Council.

City Centre Road Network

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Could the Cabinet Member advise what is being done to alleviate the considerable difficulties that businesses are facing in the City Centre with regard to the new road network?

Cllr Bilson explained that consultation had been undertaken with local businesses, including personal visits by employees. He advised that changes had been made to the proposals in the light of consultation. He noted that the work was underway and, whilst there was necessary short term inconvenience, he was confident the changes would have long term benefits in the city centre.

Cllr Thompson queried whether the consultation had been sufficiently extensive.

Cllr Bilson noted that there had been some objections to the proposals, particularly in regard to some pedestrianisation, but that the overall benefits to public realm space were significant.

Grass Cutting

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Could the Cabinet Member for City Environment advise how much money has been saved on the reduction of grass cutting services across the city?

Cllr Steve Evans advised that the service changes had not yielded a saving but a contribution to offset reductions in government funding. He advised this totalled £200,000.

Section 106 Agreements

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Would the Cabinet Member for City Assets agree that it would be proper for local Councillors, community groups and other local stakeholders to be consulted over the proposed use of funds secured by means of agreements made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990?

Cllr Bilson confirmed his assent and advised that it was done as a matter of good practice.

Cllr Thompson asked that all members of the Planning Committee be advised when this occurs.

Cllr Bilson confirmed he would issue guidance accordingly.

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Would the Leader of the Council agree that it would be desirable for at least one woman to be appointed to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership?

Cllr Lawrence confirmed that he was in agreement. He explained that 14 applications had been received for the business representation roles, of which three were women, one of whom was appointed but subsequently resigned. He advised that he had raised this issue with the Board, which it had confirmed that it was actively seeking to appoint women as part of its current recruitment.

Agency Staff and Consultants

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Could the Cabinet Member for Resources advise the Council on the costs of hiring external consultants and temporary agency staff in the last complete financial year, and on the cost so far in this financial year?

Cllr Johnson confirmed that the cost in 2014/15 was £13.994m, of which £3.634m was for schools. He further advised that the cost for the year to 9 July was £2.987m, noting that the per month spend had fallen. He explained that the top three areas of spend were schools, children in need/child protection, and looked-after children. Cllr Johnson advised that he hoped such costs would fall further in the coming year, as a recent recruitment drive had seen all vacant social worker posts filled, and the work of the Council's recruitment agency, Yoo Recruit, had proved successful.

Councillor enquiries on behalf of constituents

Councillor Photay asked the following question:

Due to the turnover of staff leaving the authority, there have been a number of incidents with Members' casework going missing or not being handed over. There will always be individuals who leave an organisation, however, could the Cabinet Member for Resources advise the Council what measures have been put in place to ensure that this doesn't happen again?

Cllr Johnson advised that a proposal had recently been agreed by the Council's directors and the Executive Team to provide a single point of contact for Councillor enquiries, employing the enhanced functionality provided by the new customer relationship management (CRM) system. He explained that a pilot would shortly be taking place in the People directorate.

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Meeting of the City Council

23 September 2015

Report title	Audit Committee Annual Report – 2014/15	
Referring Body	Audit Committee – 6 July 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Craig Collingswood	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee (s)	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Audit Committee	6 July 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. The Council is recommended to approve the contents of the 2014/15 Audit Committee Annual Report.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report is submitted to summarise the work undertaken by the Audit Committee during the 2014/15 year and to ask Council to approve the contents of the report.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Audit Committee submits an annual report to Council based on activity and work programmes for the preceding municipal year. This report covers activity during 2014/15.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The accompanying annual report of the Audit Committee provides an overview of the work undertaken in 2014/15

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendation in this report

10.0 Schedule of background papers - Audit Committee report on 6 July 2015 'Annual Report – 2014/15'

This report is PUBLIC
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Audit Committee Annual Report – 2014/15



The Audit Committee at Wolverhampton

Councillor Craig Collingswood – Chair of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a key component of the council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the council on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes.



It also oversees the work of both the internal and external auditors, helping to ensure that efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place. The key benefits of the Committee can be seen as:

- increasing public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting;
- reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit and similar review processes;
- providing additional assurance through a process of independent review; and
- raising awareness of the need for internal control and the implementation of audit recommendations.

The Audit Committee agrees a work programme for each year. It is based on (but not limited to) the following main sources of assurance:

- Annual Governance Statement: this is the statutory report which the Audit Committee approves in relation to the council's Statement of Accounts.
- Strategic Risk Register: a regular review of how the council is managing the risks it faces.
- Internal Audit: the ongoing work of, and reports from the council's internal auditors.
- External Audit: the reports submitted to the Audit Committee by the council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

I believe it has been a successful year for the Audit Committee and we look forward to building on this during 2015/16. I was particularly pleased to see the council's audit service continuing to expand on its successful joint working arrangement with Sandwell MBC. Not only has it recently won the contract to provide the audit service for Wolverhampton Homes, it has also entered into a partnership arrangement with Centro. All of which has helped them build an impressive customer base.

Finally, as the new Chair of the Audit Committee I would like to thank all the Councillors who served on the Committee during the year, both the internal and external auditors and all of the other employees who have contributed towards that success.

Key Committee business during the year

Meeting	Activity
14 July 2014	Draft Statement of Accounts Annual Governance Statement Corporate Risk Register Audit Committee Annual Report Annual Internal Audit Report Annual Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit Internal Audit Report – Performance Appraisal Scheme CIPFA Audit Committee Update Payment Transparency
22 September 2014	Audited Statement of Accounts External Audit ISA 260 Report External Audit – Financial Resilience Report Budget Update and Review Independent Review of the Process for the Medium Term Financial Strategy Strategic Risk Register and Assurance Map Internal Audit Charter Internal Audit Report on Agresso Internal Audit Update Internal Audit Staffing Arrangements CIPFA Audit Committee Update Payment Transparency
15 December 2014	External Audit Annual Letter Budget Update and Review Annual Governance Statement Update Strategic Risk Register and Assurance Map Internal Audit Update Payment Transparency Review of Fraud Related Policies and Procedures Benefits Fraud Sanctions
9 March 2015	External Audit Plan Annual Certification Report Strategic Risk Register and Assurance Map Internal Audit Update Internal Audit Plan Payment Transparency Secondary School Balances Statement of Accounts Progress Appointment of External Auditor Audit Committee – Terms of Reference Audit Committee – Self Assessment of Good Practice and Effectiveness Procurement Cards – Briefing Note

The Committee believes that its key achievements during the year were

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing assurance through a process of independent review and challenge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising the profile of internal control issues across the council and of the need to ensure that audit recommendations are implemented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular consideration and review of the risks that the council faces, through examination of the strategic risk register and accompanying assurance map.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining a good working relationship with the council's internal and external auditors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining an awareness of the likely changes to the appointment of external auditors through the Local Audit and Accountability Act, and noting that in 2015/16 the council will have new external auditors (Grant Thornton).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building the skills and knowledge of Committee members through regular technical updates and the consideration of related guidance issued by CIPFA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The continued presence of two independent members in order to broaden the Committee's experience and independent view point.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining a detailed focus on the actions being taken to combat fraud.

The Committee's Terms of Reference

Statement of purpose

Our Audit Committee is a key component of the council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of our Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

Governance, risk and control

- To review the council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider annual governance reports and assurances.
- To review the annual governance statement prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control.
- To consider the council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- To consider the council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the council.
- To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the council.
- To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.
- To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.
- To monitor the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.

Internal Audit

- To approve the internal audit charter.
- To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
- To approve risk based internal audit plan, including internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
- To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
- To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the head of internal audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- To consider reports from the head of internal audit on internal audit's performance during the year, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services. These will include:

- updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work;
 - regular reports on the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme; and
 - reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the annual governance statement.
- To consider the head of internal audit's annual report:
 - the statement of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note and the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme that supports the statement - these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit; and
 - the opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion - these will assist the committee in reviewing the annual governance statement.
 - To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
 - To receive reports outlining the action taken where the head of internal audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
 - To contribute to the quality assurance and improvement programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
 - To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the annual governance statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
 - To support the development of effective communication with the head of internal audit.

External Audit

- To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- To commission work from internal and external audit.
- To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.

Financial Reporting

- To receive detailed training in respect of the process associated with the preparation, sign off, audit and publication of the council's annual statement of accounts.
- To monitor the on-going progress towards publication of the council's annual statement of accounts, ensuring the statutory deadlines are achieved.
- To obtain explanations for all significant variances between planned and actual expenditure to the extent that it impacts on the annual statement of accounts.

- To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.
- To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Accountability arrangements

- To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.
- To report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference, and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.

Counter Fraud

- To monitor the progress of investigations undertaken by the internal auditors.

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Meeting of the City Council

23 September 2015

Report title	Treasury Management – Annual Report 2014/15 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2015/16	
Referring body	Cabinet, 22 July 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Cllr Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Claire Nye Tel Email	Chief Accountant 01902 550478 Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board Cabinet Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	13 July 2015 22 July 2015 7 October 2015

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. That the Council operated within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2014/15.
2. That revenue savings of £12.3 million for the General Fund and £6.0 million for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2014/15.
3. That revenue savings of £1.8 million for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2015/16.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Council with details of the treasury management activities carried out in 2014/15, together with performance against the prudential indicators previously approved by Council. It also provides a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the first quarter of 2015/16, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2015.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 22 July 2015 Cabinet considered a report on 'Treasury management – annual report 2014/15 and activity monitoring quarter one 2015/16'. The report can be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link:

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4790&Ver=4>

- 2.2 Cabinet recommended to Full Council that it notes:

1. The Council operated within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2014/15.
2. Revenue savings of £12.3 million for the General Fund and £6.0 million for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2014/15.
3. Revenue savings of £1.8 million for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2015/16.

3.0 Financial, legal, equalities, environmental, human resources and corporate landlord implications

- 3.1 The implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 22 July 2015.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

- 4.1 22 July 2015 Cabinet report – Treasury Management – Annual Report 2014/15 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2015/16



Meeting of the City Council

23 September 2015

Report title	Black Country Growth Hub – Grants to Third Parties	
Referring body	Cabinet, 16 September 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr John Reynolds	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr John Reynolds City Economy	
Accountable Director	Keren Jones City Economy	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee(s)	Jim Cunningham	Heads of Enterprise and Skills
	Tel	01902 550166
	Email	james.cunningham@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Heather Clark	Service Development Manager
	Tel	01902 555614
	Email	Heather.clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Cabinet	16 September 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider recommendations from Cabinet on grants to third parties to enable continuation of delivery of the Black Country Growth Hub and a grant to fund improvement works at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to be funded through Black Country Local Growth Fund monies, as part of the Cultural Capital programme.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider recommendations from Cabinet on grants to third parties to enable continuation of delivery of the Black Country Growth Hub and a grant to fund improvement works at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to be funded through Black Country Local Growth Fund monies, as part of the Cultural Capital programme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 16 September 2015 Cabinet will consider the following two reports::

- Black Country Growth Hub – Grants to third parties
- Black Country Growth deal - Cultural capital programme: Grand Theatre Grant

- 2.2 Copies of the reports have been deposited in the Members' Rooms and can also be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4791&Ver=4>

Councillors are asked to refer to the reports when considering the recommendations of Cabinet.

- 2.3 The recommendations from Cabinet will be reported verbally at Council.

3.0 Financial, legal, equalities, environmental, human resources and corporate landlord implications

- 3.1 The implications are discussed in the body of the Cabinet reports.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Cabinet reports – 16 September 2015:

- Black Country Growth Hub – Grants to third parties
- Black Country Growth deal - Cultural capital programme: Grand Theatre Grant



Meeting of the City Council

23 September 2015

Report title	City Centre Area Action Plan – Submission	
Referring body	Cabinet, 16 September 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Peter Bilson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr Peter Bilson City Assets	
Director	Nick Edwards City Assets	
Originating service	Governance	
Contact employee(s)	Michele Ross	Senior Planning Officer 01902 554038 michelle.ross@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Cabinet	16 September 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the recommendations from Cabinet on 16 September on the submission of the Publication City Centre AAP and proposed minor modifications to the Secretary of State.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider a recommendation from Cabinet on a report relating to the key issues raised during consultation on the Publication City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) September and the submission of the Publication City Centre AAP and proposed minor modifications to the Secretary of State.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 16 September 2015 Cabinet will consider a report on City Centre Area action plan - submission two reports.
- 2.2 Copies of the report have been deposited in the Members' Rooms and can also be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link:

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4791&Ver=4>

Councillors are asked to refer to the report when considering the recommendations of Cabinet.

- 2.3 The recommendations from Cabinet will be reported verbally at Council.

3.0 Financial, legal, equalities, environmental, human resources and corporate landlord implications

- 3.1 The implications are discussed in the body of the Cabinet report.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Cabinet report – 16 September 2015 - City Centre Area Action Plan – Submission