

Council Meeting

9 November 2016

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 Barry Findlay (Con)

Deputy Mayor Cllr Elias Mattu (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
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 Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

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

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Information for the Public

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

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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Tel 01902 550320

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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 - 12)
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Implementing the Devolution Agreement - Mayoral Combined Authority Functions**
[To consent to the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016] **[To Follow]**
- 6 **Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy** (Pages 13 - 48)
[To approve the final Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy for publication]
- 7 **Wolverhampton Interchange Programme** (Pages 49 - 54)
[To approve the underwriting of additional costs of £8.1 million initially funded through prudential borrowing, with the expectation that external funding will be secured in due course and that the capital programme is updated to reflect the additional budget required]
- 8 **Community Governance Review** (Pages 55 - 56)
[To approve a community governance review for the whole of Wolverhampton, but with more detailed work in the Tettenhall area]
- 9 **Proposed Revised Petitions Scheme** (Pages 57 - 60)
[To agree the adoption of new arrangements for considering petitions from the public]
- 10 **Motions on Notice** (Pages 61 - 64)
[That Council consider the motions received by Councillor Phil Bateman on the Local Impact of National Cuts to Community Pharmacies and by Councillor Roger Lawrence (Leader of the Council) on the City of Sanctuary]
- 11 **Questions to Cabinet Members** (Pages 65 - 66)
[That the Cabinet Members for City Environment and Health and Wellbeing respond to questions received]

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Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 21 September 2016

Agenda Item No: 3

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Elias Mattu (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Harbans Bagri	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Harman Banger	Cllr Val Gibson	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Philip Bateman	Cllr Julie Hodgkiss	Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha	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 Ian Brookfield	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Welcome Koussoukama	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Ian Claymore	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Hazel Malcolm	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Lynne Moran	Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Anwen Muston	Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Christine Mills
Cllr Patricia Patten
Cllr Paul Singh

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Keith Ireland	Managing Director
Mark Taylor	Director of Finance
Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Colin Parr	Head of Governance
Lesley Roberts	Strategic Director – Housing
Laura Phillips	Strategic Business Manager
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Service Manager
Julia Cleary	Scrutiny and Systems Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arun Photay.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of previous meetings - 20 July 2016

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

- (1) That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting, held on 20 July 2016, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.
- (2) That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 July 2016, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

The Mayor stated that it was with great sadness that we had learned of the death of former Councillor and Mayor, Gwen Stafford-Good on 18th August and former Councillor and MP, Ken Purchase on 28 August, a minutes silence was held in their memory.

The Mayor also reminded Councillors that the Remembrance Sunday service would take place on 13 November. The Drumhead Service would begin at 10.58am, followed by a second service in St. Peter's Church at approximately 11.25am.

5 Treasury management - annual report 2015/16 and activity monitoring quarter one 2016/17

Cllr Johnson introduced the Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2016/17. Cllr Johnson stated that the report was excellent news and would be making a big difference to the services that the Council was providing to Wolverhampton.

Cllr Thompson stated that it was good to see savings however she would also like to see figures relating to any debts in the future as well. It agreed that this was possible as these figures were a matter of public record.

The recommendations were moved by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Bilson.

Resolved:

1. That the amendment to paragraph 1.4 of the Annual Investment Strategy by lowering the minimum sovereign rating from AA+ to AA with regard to the Council's investment lending list be agreed.

That the Council note:

2. 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 2015/16.
3. The revenue savings of £7.6 million for the General Fund (including a special dividend from Birmingham Airport of £3.6 million) and £1.5 million for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2015/16.
4. The revenue savings of £886,000 for the General Fund and £254,000 for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2016/17.

6 Adoption of the Wolverhampton City Centre area action plan

Cllr Reynolds moved that the Wolverhampton City Centre Action Plan be adopted. The Plan had been through three rounds of consultation and provided a basis for determining planning applications up until 2026.

Cllr Thompson stated that she welcomed the Plan but that it had taken too long to develop and would require a site of considerable building work to start to raise the confidence of residents.

Cllr Bilson stated that a lot of work was already underway and that the Council was also looking at the skills base of residents to encourage those with low skills or poor health onto a 6 weeks course with the armed forces to help them back into work.

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Bilson.

Resolved:

That Council approve and adopt the Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan.

7 Human Resources

Cllr Lawrence moved a report to seek approval for the appointment of a Service Director – Adults.

On 7 September 2016, a Special Appointment Committee had been convened to interview for the post of Service Director – Adults. The committee's recommendation was to appoint David Watts.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr Samuels.

Resolved:

That Council approve the recommendation of a Special Appointments Committee that David Watts be appointed as Service Director – Adults on the Council's senior management terms and conditions.

8 **WV Living detailed business plan phase one**

Cllr Bilson introduced a report recommending that Council approve the recommendation from Cabinet regarding the WV Living detailed business plan phase 1.

The report considered an increase to the Council's Capital Programme for loans to WV Living to be repaid to the Council at commercial rates in accordance with the provisions of the Business Plan.

The development of new homes by WV Living would support a number of the City's strategic objectives:

- Pump prime the new build housing market in the City
- Accelerate the development of much needed new homes
- Provide additional council housing for the Housing Revenue Account
- Provides new market rented homes for families (who cannot afford deposit towards purchase) – not currently available in the City
- Opportunity to support regeneration programmes
- Bring sites into use that might otherwise not be developed
- Provides local jobs and training including work and opportunities for private sector builders and professional services, including sustaining jobs at the Council and Wolverhampton Homes by purchasing services

The WV Living Business Plan demonstrated a positive financial outcome for the Council which would support the provision of other activities and services.

Cllr Johnson seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

That the Council agree to provide an increase to the Council's Capital Programme by up to a maximum of £40 million to enable loans to be made to WV Living to be repaid to the Council at commercial rates in accordance with the provisions of the Business Plan.

9 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

1. In response to Cllr Councillor Udey Singh's question in relation to the cost of translation services Cllr Johnson stated that we did not separately analyse translation and interpreter services and were only able to provide a combined spend figure. We were only able to access spend data from 1st April 2014 (Agresso Implementation). The figures were as follows:

2014/15

The cost of Translation and Interpretation Services for 2014/15 was in total £193,090.88.

2015/16

The cost of Translation and Interpretation Services for 2015/16 was in total £320,890.87.

2016/17

The cost of Translation and Interpretation Services for 2016/17 is currently £117,044.80.

The Council had a Contract in place for Translation and Interpretation Services with a company called, "The Big Word". Where the contracted provider was unable to fulfil the requirements of the customer then staff had engaged with other accredited suppliers. The service provided was fully managed and therefore the Council did not employ any staff to deliver this Service.

The Councils Contract with The Big Word" expired on 31st October 2016; a procurement exercise was currently being undertaken to seek the most advantageous company to deliver the Councils; Translation, Face to Face Interpretation, Telephone and BSL (British Sign Language) Service.

Cllr Singh asked a supplementary question:

'How is the City assisting new movers to the area with integration when funding is being spent on translation services?'

Cllr Johnson stated that the key was to understand the legislative requirements linked with translation services. In areas such as child protection, domestic violence and homicide reviews interpreters were required to be present.

2. In response to Cllr Thompsons question regarding Residents' Parking Schemes, Cllr Evans stated that there were no plans to introduce further residents parking schemes in Wolverhampton until the New Cross parking scheme was live and any lessons learnt had been considered. It was expected that it would be at least six months after going live before we would be in a position to consider any further schemes.

Cllr Thompson asked a supplementary question:

'What was the percentage response to the consultation?'

Cllr Evans stated that he would provide the answer in writing.

3. In response to Cllr Thompson's question regarding a response to the DCLG request for compliance, Cllr Lawrence confirmed that he had replied to the Minister on 1st August and that there had been no evidence to support the anecdotal reports that a handful of Council Tax Demands had been delivered during the first few days of the Purdah period.

The Monitoring Officer had investigated the matter and confirmed that there had been no breach of the regulations surrounding the Purdah period and the Section 151 Officer was satisfied that all the facts and figures were in order.

Cllr Thompson asked a supplementary question:

'Were you aware that the original question had been based on a complaint from a local resident?'

Cllr Lawrence stated that he was aware of some complaints but that no evidence had been received.

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Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Implementing the Devolution Agreement – Mayoral Combined Authority functions	
Referring body	None	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Roger Lawrence	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence, Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Transformation	
Accountable employee(s)	Rachel Ratcliffe Tel Email	Policy Officer 01902 551969 rachel.ratcliffe@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendations for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Note the development of the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 to date, detailed in appendix A.
2. Agree that the draft Order is considered and, if appropriate, approved (subject to minor and drafting amendments) at Cabinet on 30 November 2016, as elements require government response and approval. Constituent Council approvals pending, Cabinet approval will ensure the Order can be laid in Parliament following the Combined Authority consideration of the Order on 9th December 2016.

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. The summary of consultation results in respect of the Mayoral WMCA Scheme, as submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 5th September 2016, the link is provided in paragraph 3.3 of this report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Council with the summary of consultation responses in respect of the Mayoral WMCA Scheme.
- 1.2 To bring the development of the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 to Council's attention, and agree that Cabinet consider the draft Order.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The development of the government's devolution agenda created the opportunity for the West Midlands Combined Authority to negotiate and subsequently agree a proposed Devolution Agreement. A period of clarification was carried out on the agreement and then ratified by the seven constituent councils throughout February and March 2016, including the City of Wolverhampton on 2 March 2016.
- 2.2 The devolution agreement was the first step for the West Midlands in securing the powers, resources and independence needed to drive economic growth, public service reform and deliver real outcomes for local people in terms of jobs, homes, better transport and better public services. It provided for a Government 'Gainshare' payment of £36.5 million per year and opens up potential investment funds totalling £8 billion pounds whilst increasing confidence in the local area so that further private sector investment can be leveraged. It sits alongside the Midlands Engine project, a partnership with government covering the whole West and East Midlands, including the Midlands Connect initiative to take forward east-west transport investment.
- 2.3 Following the ratification of the devolution agreement, the next stage established the position of the Mayor, a prerequisite to the devolution agreement. The Mayoral (elections) Order, to create the position of the Mayor, was approved by Council on 18 May 2016. The Mayoral (Elections) Order was subsequently made by Parliament on the 15th September 2016.
- 2.4 The 'Scheme' detailing the proposed Mayoral WMCA functions was also approved for consultation at the 18th May 2016 Council meeting. The conferral of these powers does not affect the Councils ability to deliver its services and will not result in the transfer of Councils powers to the Mayor or Mayoral Combined Authority.

3.0 Consultation for functions to be conferred upon a Combined Authority

- 3.1 It is a requirement that a public consultation be undertaken in most cases where additional functions are to be conferred upon a Combined Authority. The functions required by the West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver the devolution agreement were identified in a Governance Review and subsequently detailed in the 'Scheme' which was then consulted on.

- 3.2 The consultation was carried out from 4th July – 21st August 2016. The consultation sought views from the public and stakeholders on the additional functions proposed to be conferred on the West Midlands Combined Authority, in order to deliver the devolution agreement.
- 3.3 The summary report is available on the WMCA website via the following link: <https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1354/mayoral-wmca-consultation-report-for-upload.pdf> for Council's information.

4.0 The Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Order

- 4.1 Following the consultation, the Scheme and a summary of the responses were submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, as required.
- 4.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government prepare the draft statutory West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 based on the Scheme, in consultation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and the relevant government departments. The draft Order is in development at the time of writing, as there are elements requiring government response and approval.

5.0 Scheme to Order process

- 5.1 The developing draft Order reflects the devolution agreement and Scheme as approved by Council on 18 May 2016.
- 5.2 Where the developing Order does not reflect the Scheme, or there are variations at this stage, key areas are detailed at paragraph 6.0 below and the full summary of drafting at Appendix A.
- 5.3 The rationales for any variations are that: the detail is being considered further by government, it is not appropriate for some of the elements of the Scheme to be contained within the legislative Order (for example where the matter is already contained within existing legislation), and/ or the outcome required will be achieved through a different legislative means.
- 5.4 It should be noted that not all aspects of the West Midlands devolution agreement require legislative change to implement. The functions outlined are those that require legislative or regulatory change before they can be exercised by the West Midlands Combined Authority or the Mayor.
- 5.5 It is crucial for the delivery of the devolution deal and the wider devolution agenda that the finalised Order is laid in Parliament as soon as possible. Therefore, Council are asked to note the development of the draft Order from the Scheme and agree that Cabinet consider the draft Order on the 30th November 2016. Delegated authority will be sought from Cabinet to the Leader and Managing director for minor and drafting amendments to the Order

5.6 Following the Constituent Council's consideration of the Order, and the Combined Authority on the 9th December 2016, the Order will be laid in Parliament.

6.0 Key areas of variation through Scheme to Order process

6.1 Items requiring unanimous decision of the Constituent Members

6.1.1 Within the Order to establish the West Midlands Combined Authority and re-stated in the Scheme, there were certain items reserved to require the unanimous decision of the Constituent Members, such as amendments to the Constitution, the approval of borrowing limits, investment strategy and capital budget of the Combined Authority (full list in paragraph 15 of the Scheme).

6.1.2 Following the incorporation of the Mayoral governance model into the Combined Authority, the government's position is that the exclusion of the Mayor in such items is not aligned to the devolution agenda - given the Mayor's role as the Chair of the Combined Authority and the single accountable figure for the West Midlands.

6.1.3 Therefore these discussions have concluded from a WMCA perspective in alignment with the held position – namely that the though the Mayor can vote on the items requiring the unanimous vote of the constituent members, the Mayor's vote is not required to carry a decision regarding the unanimous items, it is the unanimous decision of the Constituent members that is required to carry the decision. The government position on this item is not yet confirmed.

6.1.4 In addition to the establishment Order unanimous items reference above, a further unanimous voting item was actually added into the Scheme:

Any delegation of any Combined Authority function pursuant to Section 101 the Local Government Act 1972 is a matter for the unanimous decision of the Constituent Members only.

6.1.5 As this was not referenced within the devolution agreement and after further consideration it has been agreed that this no longer needs to be a unanimous voting requirement but will be subject to the conventional West Midlands Combined Authority voting – i.e. any vote requires a two-thirds vote in favour of the constituent members, present and voting and the vote of the Mayor (required to carry the vote if arisen from the devolution deal). This allows flexibility where required.

6.2 West Midlands Key Route Network (WMKRN)

6.2.1 A Mayoral responsibility, requiring members and officers to assist with its operation. In line with the devolution agreement, the WMKRN is a Mayoral responsibility, but to be included in the Order, is the statutory condition that the members and officers of the Combined Authority assist with its operation. Matters are also to be subject to a two-thirds vote of the constituent members, with the mayoral vote in that two-thirds majority in favour.

6.2.2 Moving Traffic Enforcement on the WMKRN – Ministers have previously declined the extension of this power, even where Mayors currently exist. With the timescale available and the evidence required DCLG have proposed that this be the subject of future devolution discussions and therefore will not be drafted for this Order.

6.3 Finance

6.3.1 DCLG have confirmed that a generic Financial Regulation Orders will be laid in Parliament to cover financial aspect for all Combined Authorities. These will cover Non Transport Levy's, Precepting and Non Transport Borrowing (however, see below).

6.3.2 Non Transport Borrowing – This has not been agreed by Treasury, further discussion is required and if agreed will be included in the Finance Order detailed above. In order to make the case at a West Midlands level, the West Midlands Combined Authority Chair and Vice Chair have written to the Chancellor and the Regions MP's have been briefed.

6.3.3 Business Rate Supplement – DCLG are developing new Primary Legislation (Local Growth and Jobs Bill) to provide for a business rate supplement without the need for a business referendum but it would still require the agreement of the relevant LEP Board(s). The Bill is to be introduced in Parliament in 2017.

7.0 Next Steps

7.1 The Combined Authority leads will continue to work with government to finalise the drafting of the Order.

7.2 Cabinet will be in a position to consider a draft Order on 30th November 2016, with minor and drafting amendments delegated to the Leader, in consultation with the managing director.

7.3 Following Constituent Councils and the Combined Authority consideration of the Order, by the 9th December 2016, the Order will be laid in Parliament for the functions required to deliver the devolution deal to be conferred on the West Midlands Combined Authority.

8.0 Financial implications

8.1 Wolverhampton Council has now paid the agreed contribution of £500,000 to the Combined Authority in 2016/17 and set aside a budget to meet this levy in future years. It is understood that the other participating local authorities have made corresponding arrangements. [GE/26102016/D]

9.0 Legal implications

9.1 The approval of all seven of the Constituent Councils of the West Midlands Combined Authority is required before the draft Order can be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will then go through the parliamentary process necessary for the draft Order to be formally

approved and to become law. The consent of City of Wolverhampton Council is therefore required before this can be progressed.

- 9.2 The consent of the Council is an executive function and is therefore a decision which can be taken by Cabinet.
- 9.3 The Order provides details of the functions and powers that both the WMCA and the Mayor will have, the status of the Order drafting is detailed in Appendix A.
- 9.4 By consenting to the draft Order the Council will be approving the conferral of the functions on the Mayoral WMCA required to deliver the devolution deal.
[Legal Code: TS/03112016/W]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 An initial equalities analysis has been carried out on the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Scheme, having due regard to the equalities implications of the Scheme, on which the draft Order is based, and it was concluded that further detailed analysis was not required. However, any project/programmes to result from the incorporation of the Scheme detail are subject to an individual equalities analysis.

11.0 Environmental implications

- 11.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising as a result of this report.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising as a result of this report.

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising as a result of this report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers / links used

- 14.1 The West Midlands Devolution Agreement:
<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1024/westmidlandsdealdocument.pdf>

2nd March City of Wolverhampton report:
<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21634/Agenda%20item%206%20Creating%20the%20Combined%20Authority.pdf>

18th May City of Wolverhampton report:
<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25079/18052016%20-%20Wolverhampton%20Council%20Report%20-%20Provision%20for%20a%20Mayoral%20WMCA.pdf>

Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Governance Review

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1237/mayoralwmca-governance-review.pdf>

Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Scheme:

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1236/mayoral-wmca-scheme.pdf>

Initial Equality Analysis on the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Scheme:

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1235/initial-equality-analysis-mayoral-scheme.pdf>

Consultation document:

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1355/summary-of-consultation-responses-appendix-a-consultation-documents.pdf>

Summary of consultation responses report:

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1354/mayoral-wmca-consultation-report-for-upload.pdf>

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/contents>

Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/1/contents/enacted/data.htm>

Appendix A – Summary of Order proposals and status by Scheme line

Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal
Membership	
Prior to appointment of Mayor, CA will appoint a Chair and up to 2 Vice Chairs	Yes
Mayor to appoint a Deputy from Constituents	Already in Primary Legislation
New non constituents approved	Yes
Leader to be one of 2 Constituent Members appointed	No – Can't be specified in Order, to be reflected in constituent council constitutions
Mayor and Cabinet	
Portfolio leads for aspects of the WMCA's responsibilities	No – Can't be specified in the Order, to be reflected in CA Constitution
The Mayor will delegate to areas of Mayoral responsibility to Portfolio leads	No – Can't be specified in the Order. Portfolio roles to be reflected in CA Constitution, with the requirement that the Mayor has due consideration and regard to the portfolios
The Cabinet will examine the Mayors draft annual budget and plans, policies and strategies	Yes – with the ability for two-thirds of constituent members to reject.
Mayors allowance	Yes – by Independent Review Panel
Mayors Political Advisor	Yes, 1 advisor can be appointed in accordance with S9 of the Local Government and Housing Act
Voting	
Existing two-third and simple majority voting to remain	Yes, unless specified otherwise
Mayoral WMCA functions specified in the Scheme will be subject to the two-third constituent vote with the Mayor's vote 'for' in the two-third votes	Yes

Functions contained in the establishment Order (previous transport and economic development and regeneration functions) are not subject to the Mayor being in the two-third 'for' vote.	Yes – unless affected by the Devo Deal in which case the mayor would need to be part of the vote 'for'
Unanimous voting by Constituent Members	Still under consideration
Overview and Scrutiny	
Proposed Overview & Scrutiny Regulations from DCLG	Will amend CA Constituent when issued
No member of WMCA or its other (i.e. non-Overview & Scrutiny) committees can be a Member of Overview & Scrutiny	In Primary Legislation
Transport	
The powers and functions funded by the WMCA levy will remain solely functions of the WMCA and not Mayoral/ Joint Mayoral	Yes
Multi-year consolidated local capital allocation	Yes – Mayor will allocate but will be required to have due regard to the maintenance requirements of the network. WMCA can reject the Mayors proposal if two-thirds of constituent members vote to do so, within Mayoral budget mechanism
Bus Service Operators Grant Allocation	No – Transport for West Midlands have agreed that, providing they receive the agreed detail of the allocations to operators, nothing further is required at this stage.
Additional Powers for Safer Travel Police on bus assets/ network	Yes - DCLG are still talking to Department of Health and Home Office re smoking and anti-social behaviour
Bus Lane Contraventions	Yes – this will be held concurrently with Constituent Authorities to enable a consistent approach. Day to day enforcement to remain with Constituent Authorities.

Bus Refranchising and Enhanced Partnerships	No – provided for in the Buses Bill
Statutory Definition of the Key Route Network (KRN)	In line with the devolution agreement, the WMKRN is a Mayoral responsibility, but with the statutory condition that the members and officers of the Combined Authority have to assist in its operation. The exercise of functions on the WMKRN is also subject to a two-third constituent member vote, with mayoral vote in that two-thirds. The definition of the KRN will be specified in the Order with any changes specified in future Orders
S6 Highway Act ability to enter into agreement to undertake work on a trunk road or motorway for the KRN	As above (Statutory Definition of the KRN) but would also require Secretary of State approval
S8 Highway Act ability to enter into agreement to undertake work on a constituent authority road for the KRN	As above (Statutory Definition of the KRN) but would also require Constituent Authority approval
S62 Highway Act ability to make improvements to the KRN	As above (Statutory Definition of the KRN) but would also require either S6 or S8 approval as well
Ability to be classed as a Highway Authority for the purposes of Diversionary Work contributions from Utility Companies and for the future development of Permit Schemes	Yes, on KRN
Provision of traffic flows/ growth and reduction forecasts on the KRN	Yes - Mayoral
Moving Traffic Violations e.g. 'box junction' cameras on the KRN	No – under discussion for future devolution discussions
Promoting Road Safety	Yes - Mayoral
Clean Air and Low Emission Zones concurrently with Constituent Authorities	No - Confirmed we already have the ability to enforce this jointly with the local traffic authorities (Constituent Authorities)

HS2 Growth	
Combined Authority led Development Corporation	Yes – two-third CA Vote with vote of Mayor in two-third. Affected Constituent Authorities would also need to agree through their Council.
Land Compensation disregard of certain development – to put us on same footing as UDC.	Still under discussion – new Neighbourhood Planning Bill may supersede this
Skills	
Preparing for local Commissioning	No Powers required at this stage
Employment	
Ability to assist people to train.	Awaiting DWP feedback
More and Better Homes	
Objectives and Functions of HCA	Yes – Mayoral - HCA content awaiting Government Scrutiny Counsel comments
HCA CPO Powers subject to the consent of the affected Cabinet Member agreeing	Yes – Mayoral - HCA content awaiting Government Scrutiny Counsel comments. The wording will be 'subject to the affected Constituent Members agreeing.'
S23 Compensation exemption	No - not required – this section of the Land Compensation Act is being repealed by the Neighbourhood Planning Bill
Supporting and Attracting Business Innovation	
Government working to support the 3 LEP Integrated Business Support Ecosystem	No Powers required at this stage
Culture	
Ability to provide and support cultural activities and entertainment concurrently with constituent authorities	Yes
Data Sharing	
Sharing of various data sets for Skills, Employment, Environmental to assist with our Commissions	Still under discussion

Mayoral Powers	
Transport – Consolidated Budget KRN	Subject to two-third constituent member vote to reject as part of Mayoral budget and for the exercise of functions is conditional on assistance of WMCA and agreement of affected constituents
More and better Homes – HCA powers and objectives	Exercise of functions are subject to two-third constituent member vote and agreement of affected constituent member
Mayoral Precept	Subject to two-third constituent member vote to reject as part of Mayoral budget. Primary legislation restricts use to only Mayoral Functions.
Business Rate Supplement	No – Will be provided for in Local Growth and Jobs Bill expected to be laid in January 2017
Functional power of Competence	Yes
Financial (these powers will be subject to a separate generic financial regulations order)	
Devolved investment Strategy	DCLG have reconfirmed Mayor can only contribute to those areas that are Mayoral functions.
Precept	Yes - but limited to the cost of Mayoral Functions
Levy (Non Transport) on Constituent Authorities	Yes
Non Transport Borrowing	No – Written to Chancellor and Briefed MP'S
Business Rate Supplement	Suggesting we wait for Local Growth and Jobs Bill expected to be laid in January 2017
100% Business Rate Retention	Pilot
Work with Government to achieve Intermediate Body Status for GBS LEP	Awaiting clarification following Brexit
Sub Structure	
Ability for CA to have Committees/ Sub Committees	Nothing required in Order

Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy	
Referring body	Cabinet	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Mark Taylor Tel Email	Director of Finance 01902 554410 mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Cabinet	19 October 2016
	Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	16 November 2016

Recommendations for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the final Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy for publication, following presentation of the draft document to Cabinet on 19 October 2016 and the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to agree the final amendments to the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Full Council's approval to publish the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy.
- 1.2 The updated Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy provides further evidence to support the Council's submission for a four year central government funding settlement which will enable the authority to operate with increased financial certainty in the medium term.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 20 July 2016, Full Council approved that the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 - 2019/20 should form the basis of the Council's Efficiency Strategy subject to any appropriate drafting amendments, in order to sign up to the four year settlement.
- 2.2 Full Council also approved the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the final four year settlement submission.
- 2.3 On 19 October 2016, a draft version of the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy was presented to Cabinet, where approval was sought to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to agree the final amendments prior to presentation to Full Council.

3.0 Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy

- 3.1 The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy sets out the medium term financial forecasts for the Council, and the context in which these forecasts are made in terms of service and investment priorities, stakeholder engagement and resource constraints and opportunities.
- 3.2 The document complements the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy and provides further evidence to support the Council's request to central government for a four year funding settlement to 2019/20.
- 3.3 The Council has produced and published a similar document on a regular basis in previous years in the form of an annual Financial Plan.
- 3.4 Full Council are asked to approve the the final version of the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy, as attached at Appendix A, for publication.
- 3.5 As stated in paragraph 2.2 above, Full Council delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the final four year settlement submission to the Secretary of State which would provide the Council with indicative core government grant allocations for 2017/18 to 2019/20, to cover the Parliamentary period. It is important to note that the submission to the

Secretary of State has now been made. Confirmation of the Council's submission has been received and we are now awaiting further details from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy is a concise public document which summarises the Council's medium term financial plans and efficiency strategy.

[MH/31102016/L]

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council's budgets make assumptions which must be based on realistic projections of available resources, service priorities and inherent risks.
- 5.2 The legal duty to spend with propriety falls under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the arrangements for the proper administration of a Council's affairs is secured by the section 151 officer as the 'Chief Financial Officer'.

[RB/31102016/D]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising as a result of this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising as a result of this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising as a result of this report.

10.0 Schedule of Background Papers

- 10.1 Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy, report to cabinet, 19 October 2016.
- 10.2 Council Efficiency Strategy and Four Year Settlement, report to Full Council, 20 July 2016.
- 10.3 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2019/20, report to Cabinet, 2 March 2016

- 10.4 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2019/20, report to Cabinet, 24 February 2016.

Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy

Reflecting **local priorities** as we plan for the future





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1. Forward

I am pleased to be writing this foreword to the latest version of our Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy which sets out our plans and forecasts for the finances of the City of Wolverhampton Council. Our 2016/17 budget and latest Medium Term Financial Plan, which forms the foundation of this document and the Council's efficiency strategy, was approved by the City of Wolverhampton Council on 2 March 2016.

This plan seeks to explain to our residents, businesses and visitors the impact of the ongoing challenges that we face, the significant strides that we have made in finding solutions to these challenges and our efficiency strategy to achieve further budget reductions over the medium term. It sets out in detail the updated four-year plan for our day-to-day spend on essential services together with our capital investment strategy.

Despite Government cuts to our funding, we remain firmly committed to investing in our local housing, schools, roads and town centres and to use our resources efficiently and effectively to make Wolverhampton a better place to live, work and visit.

The period covered by this document pre-dates the government's planned introduction of greater devolution of core funding to local government. Much of the detail and the implications of this announcement still need clarification. It is to be hoped, however, that our future financial forecasts will be based on a far less centralised mechanism as the current system of grant funding from central government is phased out and councils are allowed to retain business rates.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Roger Lawrence' in a cursive script.

Councillor Roger Lawrence

Leader of the Council

The Council's updated Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy complements our most recent Corporate Plan which sets out our combined vision, ambition and priorities for the City of Wolverhampton. It also remains a key part of our Confident, Capable Council transformation programme, aimed at transforming the way we work and provides key information to support our annual budget consultation process. In the longer term it provides a stepping stone to our 'New Horizons' vision of what Wolverhampton will look like in 2030, founded on effective co-operation and collaboration across our City.

This document has again been updated to reflect the on-going progress that we have made to address significant cuts to our funding, at a time when demand for our services is unparalleled. By its very nature, the scale of the financial challenge facing us remains dynamic – if nothing more is done our updated budget deficit is projected to be £54.6 million per annum by 2019/20 - despite the Council identifying budget reductions of £175.0 million over the last six financial years. Our latest projections assume the achievement of £37.4 million of new budget reductions over the four year period from 2016/17 and it is vital that we deliver these savings.

We remain 100 per cent focused on our ambition to deliver these budget reductions as well as finding the additional £54.6 million that we require to balance the books. Despite the very severe challenges that we face, we are continuing to invest in services which you have identified as being a priority and I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to respond to our consultation requests to help shape the City's budget.

The Council is determined to continue to invest in our City to stimulate growth and inward investment and, once again, our Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy reflects this intent.



Keith Ireland
Managing Director



2. Executive Summary

General Services Revenue Budget

On 2 March 2016, the City Council approved the latest version of the General Services revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The General Services revenue budget covers the cost of all day-to-day council services except council housing and is met through government grants, council tax, business rates and fees and charges raised by the Council. The Council's latest MTFS sets out the authority's planned income and expenditure over the medium term and shows a forecast budget deficit - a gap between the Council's income and expenditure - of £54.6 million by 2019/20.

There are two main reasons for this deficit:

- successive cuts in Government grant support have reduced the Council's financial resources.
- at the same time, substantially increased demand for council services, has left the Council facing greater cost pressures.

Throughout 2015/16, the Council continued to identify budget reductions while at the same time focusing on achieving its corporate priorities and investment aspirations. These priorities were shaped by residents, community groups and local businesses during the Council's earlier budget engagement campaign.

The Council has identified net budget reductions of £175 million over the last six financial years.

Whilst the Council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 without resorting to the use of its general reserves, this still leaves us £22.2 million short of our 2017/18 budget reductions target - and if nothing more is done, the budget deficit will rise to £54.6 million by 2019/20.

During the early part of 2016/17, work has been on-going in order to identify further budget reduction, income generation and base budget revisions for 2017/18 to tackle the £22.2 million shortfall. Significant progress has already been made towards the 2017/18 challenge. The focus is now on identifying the budget shortfall for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently carried out an independent Finance Peer Review to examine and report upon the City of Wolverhampton's strategy for meeting the increasing demand for its services during a period of diminishing resources. Pleasingly, the LGA has reported that 'The Council has made major progress in its aim to achieve financial stability. There is strong leadership, prudent financial management and clear evidence of innovation. It is now timely to reflect on and refine the Financial Strategy so it further enables and supports the delivery of the ambitions of the City'.





Westside Development

General Services Capital Budget

Despite the financial challenges it faces, the Council is committed to supporting the City's economic growth and encouraging job creation and investment through its capital programme. It is important to note that the Council's capital investment attracts further inward investment to help the local economy to grow and thrive so every pound invested by the authority generates a local economic benefit well in excess of this initial investment.

Major investments over the medium-term include:

i10 Office and Commercial Building

The £11 million i10 office and retail facility was successfully opened in early 2016 attracting big name tenants such as Greene King and Tarmac.

i54 Business Park

The successful i54 Enterprise Zone scheme has to date attracted inward investment of around £600 million from Jaguar Land Rover, Moog, Eurofins and International Security Printers Ltd.

Wolverhampton Interchange

The i10 success is complemented by our plans for a fully integrated transport hub at Wolverhampton, providing an attractive and effective gateway for the Black Country with improved links to Birmingham and the proposed high speed railway (HS2). Work is due to begin on the new railway station next year.

Bilston Urban Village

The Regeneration of Bilston town centre including infrastructure, services and remediation

work to bring major new residential and employment opportunities.

Civic Halls and Grand Theatre

This involves a major refurbishment and extension through the Black Country Growth Deal to meet demand and stimulate further economic development and investment in the City Centre.

Westside Development

The Council has recently named its preferred Westside developer as Urban and Civic plc to deliver a £55 million scheme, which includes a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, bars, hotel, multi-storey car park, apartments and public realm in two phases over five years.

Primary Schools Expansion Programme

The Council has approved £33.7 million of investment between 2015/16 and 2018/19 to meet predicted demand for school places in coming years.

Housing Budget

The Housing Budget is expected to have sufficient resources available over the next 30 years to fund the £1.6 billion of capital works that will be needed as well as meeting its management and maintenance obligations. In addition, budget reductions achieved following a review of the capital programme and other changes within the programme have released resources that will enable an additional 400 new homes to be built over the next four years, involving approximately £56 million of capital investment.

3. The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy Context and Development

The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy brings together the Council's vision, priorities, approved budgets, financial strategies and business plans. It remains a key constituent of our ambitious transformation programme focused on delivering a confident, capable council.

It provides a rounded view of the Council's finances, the challenges it faces and how it plans to respond to those challenges.

By law, the Council must work out annual revenue budgets for its General Services and Housing Accounts. This is why the coming year's council tax and housing rents are calculated in the February and March before the financial year begins in April.

Despite this fixed annual timetable, many of the Council's priorities have to be planned for over several years. The environment in which the Council works is also constantly changing. The Council tries to anticipate these changes to place the authority in the best possible position to respond to them. The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy not only reflects the Council's corporate priorities, but also plays a critical role in shaping the Council's vision, providing a framework within which decisions about future services can be made.

The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy in context

The Council's latest Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy has been influenced by three key factors:

1. Overarching economic conditions

The overall pace of economic growth has slowed recently and whilst the economy is still expanding relatively steadily, performance across sectors is mixed, for example, the services sector is growing robustly but manufacturing and construction are struggling. The Government has continued its deficit reduction theme which was introduced at the start of the decade and its most recent budget confirmed further cuts to public spending of £3.5 billion over the current Parliament. During this time the Bank of England's base interest rate remained at half a per cent until its recent cut to a quarter of a per cent on 4 August 2016.

For the Council, the consequences of relatively historically low rates, cuts to public funding and general economic under performance are:

- lower borrowing costs, although this has also led to a poorer return on cash surpluses
- a significant reduction in income and a corresponding reduction in spending power
- a significant increase in demand for services

The continued uncertainty about future economic conditions makes accurate public sector financial planning difficult although the Government announced details of a four year grant settlement in its March budget in response to this. This has been welcomed by the Council as it will be able to place a greater degree of reliance on a substantial element of its medium term funding streams.

In order to secure the four-year indicative settlement, confirmation of an 'Efficiency Strategy' is required, a requirement that is met by our Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy. We have made our application to the department for Communities and Local Government to secure the four year settlement. Uncertainty remains, however, regarding the impact of future business rates retention and revaluation plans and on-going dialogue regarding New Homes Bonus and Better Care funding, which together mean that the Council will still have to estimate a significant part of its total funding for the medium term.

2. Government spending cuts and controls

The Government's on-going austerity measures have resulted in cuts to local government funding that would have been inconceivable just a few years ago. Over the last six years, the value of grants awarded to the City of Wolverhampton Council by central Government has reduced by over 50% in real terms leaving the Council with over £126 million less to spend in 2016/17 than in 2010/11 (at 2016/17 prices).

At the same time as making cuts to grants, the Government has continued to make efforts to restrict council tax increases, including, in certain years, paying a one-off grant to councils that freeze their council tax, which Wolverhampton has availed itself to in the past.

However, because of budgetary pressures and Government grant, the City of Wolverhampton Council increased its council tax by 3.99% for 2016/17. This increase includes the newly permitted 2% ringfenced increase for spend on adult social care. The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy is based on the assumption that in 2016/17 and beyond, council tax will increase by 3.99% each year. Any actual increases in council tax will be agreed on an annual basis.

The chart below illustrates the structural change to the Council's funding over the last six years with reducing general grant funding from the government and a relatively greater reliance on locally raised monies to pay for services. This theme continued in the government's latest budget when a complete shake-up of future local government was announced to the extent that councils will be totally self-funded by the end of this parliament.

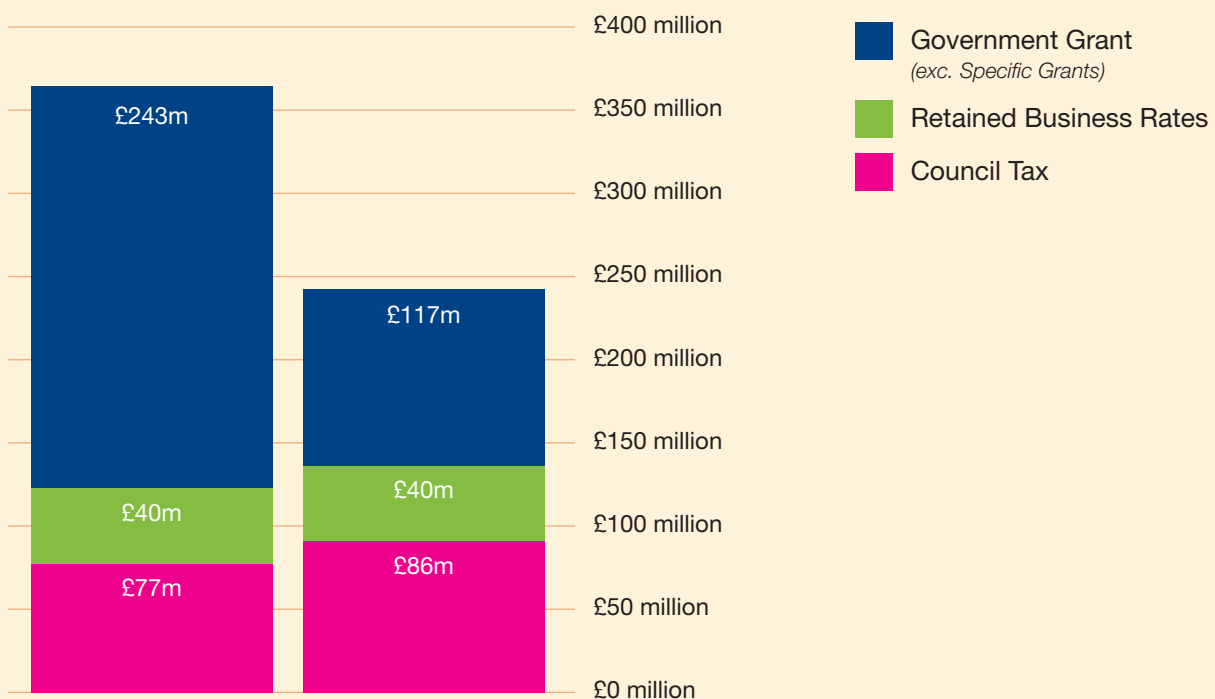
During the six-year comparison period shown in the chart below, the government's general grant

funding methodology, together with some of the services for which local government is responsible, have changed.

The old Formula Grant system, for example, was abolished in 2013/14 and replaced by a less centralised funding system which included an element of business rates retention and the introduction of councils' own council tax support schemes. To enable a like for like comparison, the 2016/17 figures above have been adjusted to mirror the 2010/11 general grants funding format.

The chart, therefore, provides a genuine representation of the general grant funding loss for the City of Wolverhampton Council over the period concerned.

Chart 1: Loss of Resources 2010/11 to 2016/17 (at 2016/17 Prices - £m)



3. Social and demographic factors

Wolverhampton is one of the most densely populated local authority areas in England, with a quarter of a million people living in 26.8 square miles. The City's demographic profile is also changing as it attracts new residents and becomes increasingly diverse.

The latest Indices of Deprivation from 2015 show that since 2007, Wolverhampton has worsened from the 28th most deprived out of 326 council areas to the 19th most deprived. Deprivation in the City is also concentrated in a number of areas.

Wolverhampton's population is projected to increase by about 5,700 (2.3%) between 2014 and 2024. This growth rate is on a par with the Black Country average, yet below the national average, suggesting that if population were to be a dominant factor for the relative needs distribution of Government grant in the short term, prior to the proposed removal of general Government grant in 2020, then Wolverhampton would continue to receive a declining share of those resources. Chart 2 below shows Wolverhampton's population by five-year age bands in 2014 (estimated) and 2024 (projected).

The projected population increase, in particular an increase in the numbers of both younger (5-14) and older (55-90+) people, will mean increased demand for services to support families and individuals. As a result, it is likely that the Council's expenditure on these services will increase.

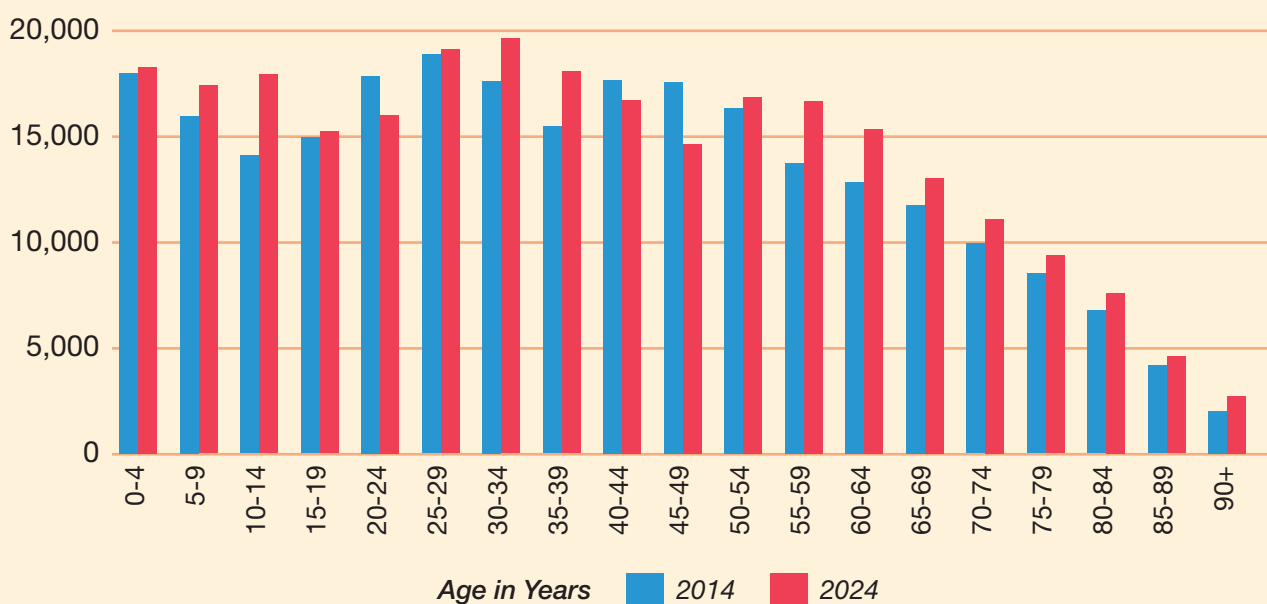
Other significant local factors include relatively high levels of unemployment and worklessness, which also increase demand for council services.

Consultation and equalities

The Council carries out extensive stakeholder consultation as part of the budget development process. The budget proposals are also considered by the Council's Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels.

The Council has a legal duty to consider equality implications when making budget decisions. The outcomes of the consultations, scrutiny and equality analyses are taken into account by the Cabinet when making its recommendations to Full Council.

Chart 2: Wolverhampton's Population; 2014 (Estimated) and 2024 (Projected)





Dudley Street, Wolverhampton

Budget development principles

To make sure that it is taking a long-term, strategic approach to budget development, the Council has historically planned its budgets to cover a five-year period. Given the remaining uncertainties surrounding the funding of local government in the medium-term, the Council has recently focused on projecting over a four-year period which also aligns with the government's new four-year financial settlement proposals.

The Council manages its budgets corporately – in other words, where it can, it will redirect money from one service to another in order to match limited and changing resources to the Council's highest priorities. Up to now, the Council has tried to safeguard those services that it considers to be highest priority. However, due to the scale of the budget cuts it is becoming virtually impossible to exempt any part of the Council's service from the need to find

budget reductions. All managers have been required to find more efficient means of delivering their services as well as increasing income generation opportunities. This has meant major reductions in the Council workforce. Due to the scale of the challenges it has been, and will increasingly become, necessary to reduce the level of Council service provision in some areas.

Development of the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy

Though the Council works to an annual budget cycle, work on the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy goes on throughout the year. The Housing and General Services revenue budgets are approved by the Full Council in February and March of each year, on the basis of recommendations from the Council's Cabinet. Further details of the annual budget setting cycle are shown in the next section.

Annual Budget Setting Cycle

April

Previous year's accounts are closed.

May

Corporate Plan priorities are considered within the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Budget reduction and income generation proposals are developed by Senior Management.

July

Previous year's Outturn is reported to Cabinet.

Cabinet and Confident, Capable Council Scrutiny Panel consider the Draft Budget Report (1 of 4).

Previous year's Outturn is reviewed to identify ongoing budget reductions and financial performance.

Update on new budget reduction and income generation targets against the MTFS, to be reported to Cabinet in July.

August

Budget reduction and income generation proposals continue to be developed.

September

Consider implications of new budget reduction and income generation proposals.

October

Cabinet consider Fees and Charges Report.

Cabinet considers the Draft Budget Report, including budget reduction, income generation and base budget revisions (2 of 4).

Formal Budget Consultation starts.

November

Detailed scrutiny of budget reduction and income generation proposals by all Scrutiny Panels.

Confident, Capable Council Scrutiny Panel considers the Draft Budget Report (2 of 4).

Review assumptions in MTFS for inclusion in December Cabinet report.

Calculate forecasts for council tax and business rates income.

December

Scrutiny Board provides the outcome of the first round of scrutiny.

Central government issues provisional settlement details for following financial year.

January

Cabinet and Scrutiny Panel consider the Draft Budget Report (3 of 4).

Cabinet note Forecast Collection Fund Outturn.

Cabinet approves the council tax base.

Cabinet receives outcomes of Budget Consultation.

Senior Management work with Cabinet to finalise proposals for presentation to Council.

Scrutiny Board provides the outcome of the second round of scrutiny.

February

Central government issues final settlement details for following financial year.

Cabinet receives and responds to the outcomes of scrutiny/budget consultation.

Cabinet approves the Final Budget Report.

March

Full Council votes on budget and council tax.

4. General Services Budget 2016/17

During 2016/17 we have been working for you by providing a variety of services. As an example, in Wolverhampton on average we...



empty
44,000
bins | caddies
per day

at an annual cost of
£8.2 million



clear and dispose of
11,000kg
of litter and debris
from our streets
per day

at an annual cost of
£2.6 million



support
834
over 65's in
residential and
nursing care per day

at an annual cost of
£9.5 million

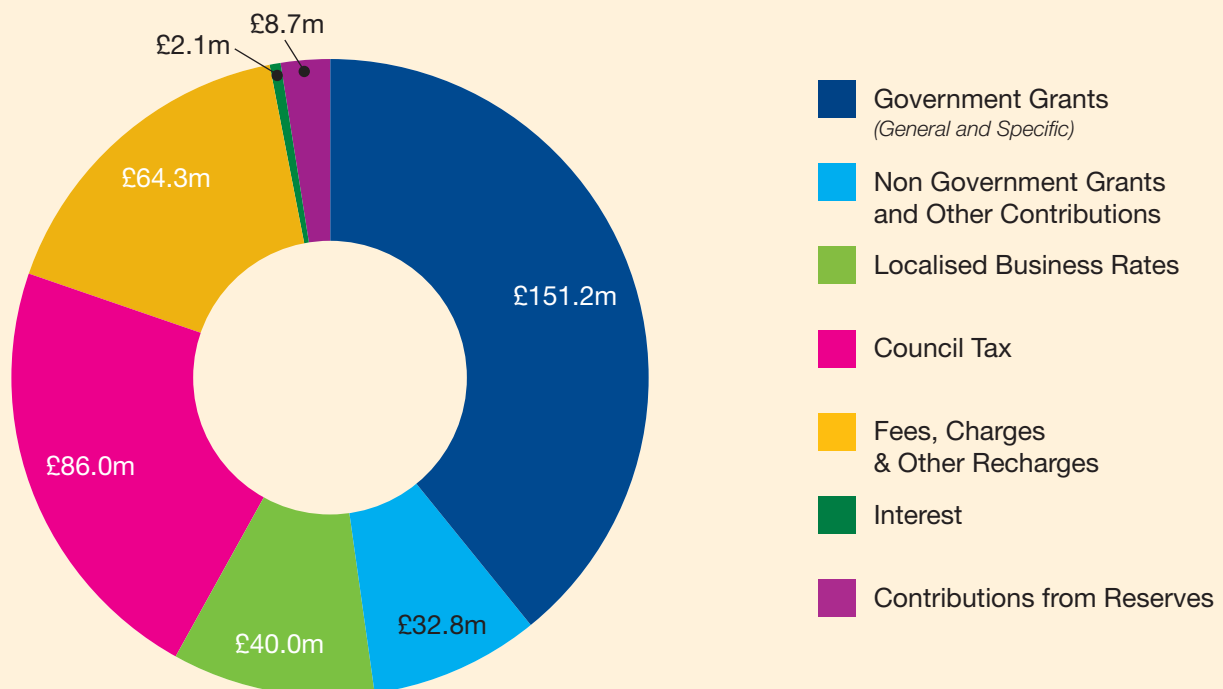


have
2,547
leisure centre
visitors per day

at an annual cost of
£1.3 million

The on-going funding pressures mean that the Council has had to make tough decisions about where to spend money - some of the services provided in the past will either change or be withdrawn in the future. The Chart below summarises the main sources of income for 2016/17.

Chart 3: Where the budget comes from 2016/17 (exc. schools)



NB: In Chart 1 Government Grants (£117m) excludes 'Specific Grants' whereas in Chart 3 Government Grants (£151.2m) includes both 'General' and 'Specific Grants'.

Below is more detail on the types of income included in each section.

Government Grants (General and Specific)

Includes general grants received from central government to help with the provision of general services, mainly in the form of Revenue Support Grant and Top Up Grant together with grants to spend on specific services (specific grants) which reflect government priorities, for example, Growth Hub funding.

Non-Government Grants and Other Contributions

Working in partnership, the Council also receives money to spend on specific services from non-government bodies such as the Health Authority and other Councils.

Localised Business Rates

This represents the proportion of business rates raised in the area that are retained by the Council to help pay for the cost of services.

Council Tax

This amount represents monies raised by the Council based on the value (banding) of a domestic property and the number of occupants.

Fees, Charges and Other Recharges

The Council also raises income by charging for several services which it provides such as car parking, leisure facilities and the rental of commercial premises.

Interest

The Council invests any cash surpluses that it holds in accordance with its approved treasury management policy to generate interest receipts to support the provision of services.

Contributions from Reserves

The Council holds general reserves as a contingency together with earmarked reserves for specific future use. The amount shown in the chart represents the planned use of reserves in year.

For 2016/17, the Council has continued to build on its recent strong record of identifying and achieving the necessary budget reductions enforced by central government and has set a

budget to spend over £385 million of income on General Services for the year.

This was approved at the meeting of the Full Council on 2 March 2016 along with the 2016/17 to 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Strategy. The chart above excludes monies received from the Government by the Council for its schools (Dedicated Schools Grant) and for the administration of Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit payments, which is also funded by central government.

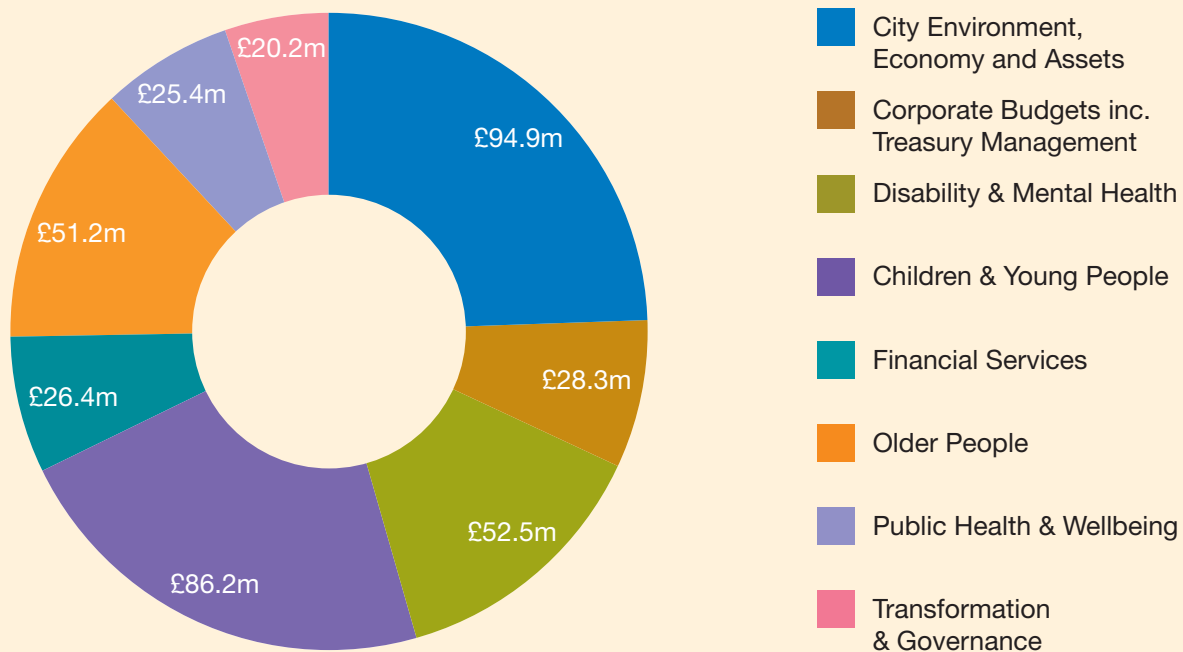
Aligning Corporate Priorities and Resources

The Council has clearly identified priorities and any decisions about where to spend money will be guided by these and consultation with our partners and stakeholders. The Council's priorities, which are set out in the Corporate Plan, support 'stronger communities' (People) and 'stronger economy' (Place) supported by a 'Confident Capable Council' (Corporate). This is reinforced by dedicated work streams within the Council to help increase efficiencies and/or the impact on income generation with a clear focus on: -

- Digital and Customer Services Transformation;
- increased commercialisation to take advantage of developing markets, for example, within the cultural services sector (the Civic Hall, Wulfrun Hall and the City Art Gallery);
- optimisation of both new and existing revenue generation opportunities, for example, the provision of leisure and fitness amenities through the WV Active initiative;
- developing more effective systems for the planning and management of services that are demand led, for example, the redesign of children's services, and
- developing the use of outcome based service planning over the medium term as an integral part of our Corporate Plan, to ensure that service outputs are aligned with our corporate priorities.

Once again, the latest approved budget was shaped by our budget consultation and the input of stakeholders. The Council's budget for 2016/17 reflects these locally identified priorities and continues to make the most vulnerable in our City its priority for services and investment. The key areas of spend are reflected in Chart 4 below.

Chart 4: Where we plan to spend the budget in 2016/17 (exc. schools)



Below are examples of the type of day-to-day services that are facilitated by the Council.

City Environment, Economy and Assets

Transportation, planning, economic development, markets and waste and recycling services.

Corporate Budgets

Interest and repayment of borrowing, ear-marked reserves, airport dividend and the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) levy (Transport for West Midlands).

Disability and Mental Health

Assessment and care management and special educational needs.

Children and Young People

Child protection, looked after children and youth offending services.

Financial Services

Revenues and benefits, strategic financial and audit services.

Older People

Older people assessment and care management, older people welfare rights and independent living services.

Public Health and Wellbeing

Public health, health protection and community safety.

Transformation and Governance

Corporate transformation and improvement, information, communication and technology services, legal and democratic services.

5. General Services Medium Term Projections

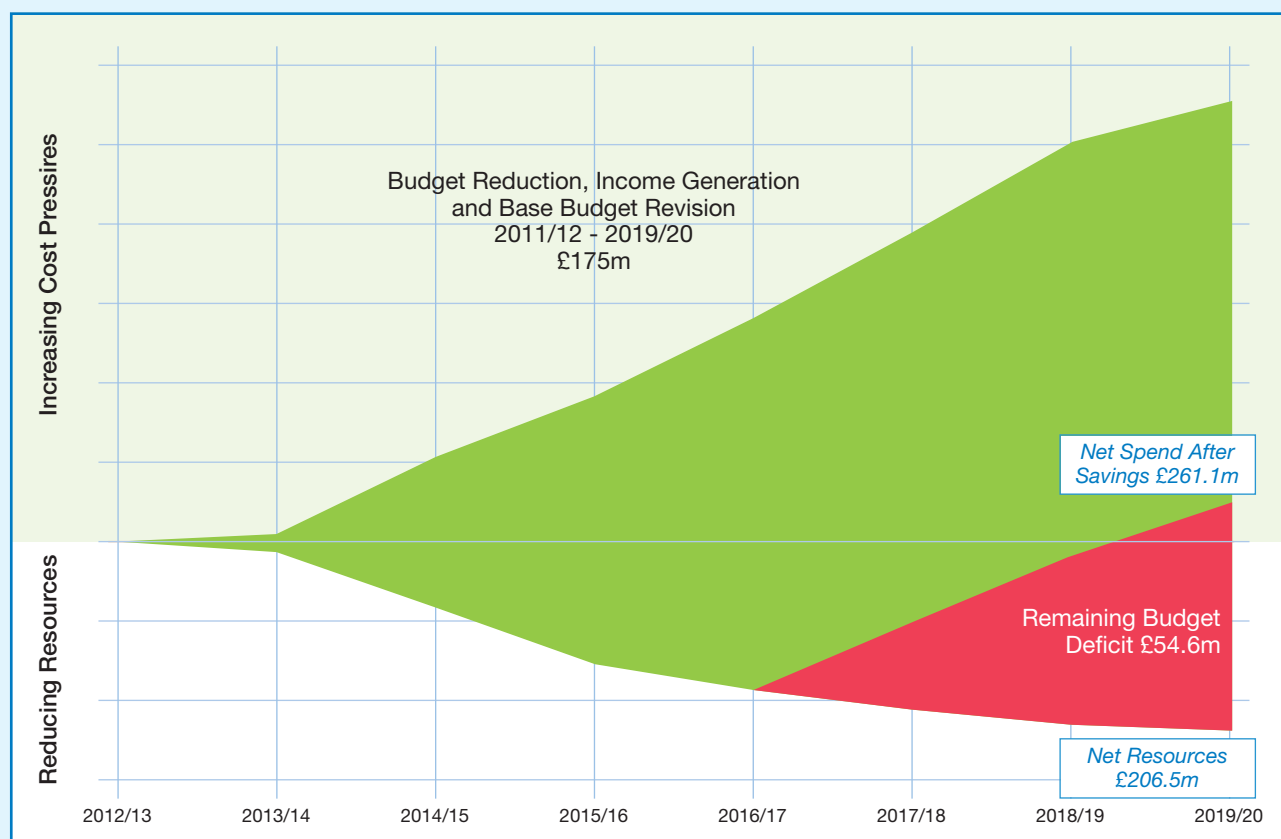
Since 2011/12, the Council has reduced its annual budget by over £175 million. Despite this, the latest projections show that there is still more to do and our current projections predict that if we take no further action by 2019/20, there will still be a £54.6 million shortfall in our resources, when compared against the cost of our services, as detailed below.

Table 1: General Services Financial Projections 2016/17 to 2019/20

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
£ thousands				
Previous Years Net Budget Brought Forward	224,875	217,350	234,461	251,125
Increasing Cost Pressures	(7,525)	17,111	16,664	10,031
Net Budget	217,350	234,461	251,125	261,156
Projected Corporate Resources	(217,350)	(212,269)	(208,799)	(206,518)
Projected Cumulative Budget Deficit	0	22,192	42,326	54,638

The Council's financial challenge has arisen because of the reduction in funding combined with increases in costs and greater demand for services. Chart 5 below illustrates the excellent progress that the Council has made in delivering a balanced budget since 2012/13 (shaded green) together with the scale of the remaining challenge (shaded red).

Chart 5: Forecast Medium Term Budget Deficits - Analysed by Increasing Cost Pressures and Reducing Resources





The Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton

The Council has recently welcomed an independent review by the Local Government Association (LGA) of its medium term financial strategy and how it plans to manage an increasing demand for its services at a time when its financial base is being eroded.

In particular, the LGA commented that:

- There has been significant progress, developments and improvements resulting in a good grasp of the current budgetary position and understanding of the future financial challenge.
- There is visible and well respected leadership - both political and managerial that provides a clear and consistent message about the scale of the challenge and the imperatives of responding to it.
- The finance function is well regarded and respected by Councillors and managers, and clearly plays an enabling role that supports transformation and the delivery of financial savings across directorates.
- The key governance, processes and systems including digital capability that support and enable financial planning, monitoring and management are in place or are being developed.

- The components of the financial strategy including commercialisation and demand management are consistent with practice in the sector.
- It is now timely to reflect on the strategy, approach and pace in light of the current position and future aspirations.

The Council has embraced the recommendations arising from the report and recognises that the challenge remains significant and there is no room for complacency. The fundamental requirement to deliver on existing budget reduction and income generation proposals whilst formulating new ones remains.

Balances and Reserves

The Council has balanced its 2016/17 budget without having to call upon any of its general reserves. Our general reserve balance, which is set aside for one-off contingent items and emergency spend, is projected to stand at £10 million by the end of March 2017. This balance represents less than 3% of our projected annual net spend on services so it is vital that we only use this money as a last call.

Our in year revenue budget monitoring for 2016/17 has indicated that, as with 2015/16, spend will be in line with the overall budget. The

use of existing balances and reserves will help smooth the impact of the budget reductions that the Council has to make as a result of timing differences between income and expenditure. However, the Council's policy stipulates that a minimum of £10 million should be maintained in reserve. Taking account of this required minimum level of balances, a strategy of funding the projected budget deficit by drawing on reserves is not a viable option. Based on current projections, it would see those available reserves depleted during 2017/18. This clearly demonstrates that using reserves can only ever be successful in the very short-term and will not resolve medium-term funding issues.

The Future Budget Strategy

The Council recognises that having taken out over £175 million out of its annual budget over the past six years, it is extremely unlikely that any further major budget reductions can be made solely through efficiencies. During the early part of 2016/17, intense work has taken place to identify further budget reduction, income generation and base budget revisions for

2017/18 and significant progress has been made to date. This work is cyclical and the latest formal consultation on the budget will take place from 24 October 2016 to 14 January 2017.

The Council's objective is to deliver universal services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible, while delivering maximum benefit to individuals, families and communities.

Managing risks

The Council uses a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) system to analyse risk:

- Red status identifies problems that need serious attention and immediate action
- Amber status signifies that there are potential problems that must be managed closely and not allowed to become issues
- Green status means that everything is on track and there are no issues.

The overall risk associated with the City Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is Red, due to significant unknowns such as Government funding and increased demand for services.



6. Capital Investment Strategy

The Council's Capital Investment Strategy for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2016. When developing the Capital Programme, close attention is paid to the direct impact capital expenditure can have on revenue budgets, for example, the cost of borrowing in the form of interest charges. Table 2 below shows a summary of the Council's latest approved Capital Programme:

Table 2: Capital Programme and funding 2015/16 to 2020/21

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
	£ thousands						
Expenditure							
General Services	68,490	129,225	48,865	17,952	8,944	1,691	275,167
Housing Services	50,769	57,005	57,812	32,278	29,360	22,301	249,525
Total Exp.	119,259	186,230	106,677	50,230	38,304	23,992	524,692
Financing							
External Funds	(38,678)	(44,802)	(19,464)	(4,393)	(4,262)	0	(111,599)
Internal Funds	(80,581)	(141,428)	(87,213)	(45,837)	(34,042)	(23,992)	(413,093)
Total Financing	(119,259)	(186,230)	(106,677)	(50,230)	(38,304)	(23,992)	(524,692)

Capital Investment

Despite the financial constraints, the Council remains committed to an ongoing programme of capital investment to support the economic growth of the area and employment opportunities for the City's residents.

i10 Office and Commercial Building:

This is demonstrated by the Council's investment in the £11 million i10 building which offers top grade office and commercial space and was successfully opened in early 2016, attracting big name companies such as Greene King, Tarmac, Ovivo and Countryside to the City.

i54 Business Park:

Another example is the successful i54 Enterprise Zone scheme which, to date, has attracted inward investment of around £600 million from Jaguar Land Rover, Moog, Eurofins and International Security Printers Ltd.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has also agreed an expansion to the Growth Deal with central government which will see over £130 million invested in the Black Country from 2016 to 2021 - which will generate an estimated additional £310 million in public and private investment. In addition to the benefits that this will bring to the wider Black County partnership

investments that will have a direct impact upon Wolverhampton include:

Wolverhampton Interchange:

The i10 success complements our plans for a fully integrated transport hub, providing an attractive and effective Wolverhampton gateway for the Black Country with improved links to Birmingham and the proposed high speed railway (HS2). Work is due to begin on the new railway station next year following the extension and refurbishment of the railway station multi-storey car park, which is expected to be completed by Christmas 2016. It forms part of a £120 million Interchange project that will also see a Metro line extension, including a new stop at the station.

Bilston Urban Village:

The regeneration of Bilston town centre including infrastructure, services and remediation work to bring major new residential and employment opportunities. The development will create over 1,000 new homes as well as retail and commercial premises and a significant amount of parkland and open space. After significant construction, it is already now home to the state of the art Bert Williams Leisure Centre.

Civic Halls and Grand Theatre:

This involves a major refurbishment and extension through the Black Country Growth Deal to meet demand and stimulate further economic development and investment in the City Centre. The Civic Halls have been around for ninety years and are an important part of our visitor economy, providing jobs and generating millions of pounds every year by staging nationally acclaimed shows.

Westside Development:

The Council has recently named its preferred Westside developer to deliver a £55 million leisure led mixed use scheme in the heart of the City. Urban & Civic plc fought off competition from other leading UK developers and will now further develop its proposal to deliver a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, bars, hotel, multi storey car park, apartments, and public realm, in two phases, over five years.

Primary Schools Expansion Programme:

The Council has approved £33.7 million of investment between 2015/16 and 2018/19 to

meet predicted demand for school places in coming years. This will complement the significant investment of over £200 million via the Building Schools for the Future programme to help develop a world class educational environment for our young people.

Digital Transformation:

We are also investing in our vital business systems to ensure that we obtain the maximum leverage in appropriate digital technologies. This will help us to make sure that our business processes, activities and models are at the cutting edge of efficiency and effectiveness to support our varied service aspirations. The programme will transform the delivery of Council services and will be supported by the introduction of new technologies in the form of a Customer Engagement Platform, Master Data Management and a Business Intelligence solution.

Our Vision for the City of Wolverhampton in 2030

Looking into the horizon, what might the City of Wolverhampton look and feel like in 2030? The City is already one of the fastest changing cities in the UK and is playing a leading role in driving forward devolution to the West Midlands via the West Midlands Combined Authority. Our medium term capital investment plans to 2020/21 mark a significant step change and will take us closer to the City described in our 'New Horizons' vision for the City of Wolverhampton in 2030. In 2030 Wolverhampton will be place where people come from far and wide to work, shop, study and enjoy our vibrant nightlife but this can only be realised by effective collaboration across the City and beyond. With your support we will transform our City into a prosperous and inclusive place that celebrates its diversity and heritage and plays its part on the regional, national and international stage.



7. Treasury Management Strategy



The New i10 Development on Railway Drive, Wolverhampton

The Council's latest Treasury Management Strategy was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2016. This sets out the strategy for the management of the Council's investments, borrowings and daily cash balances and has four elements:

- The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out how the Council's treasury service supports capital investment decisions and day-to-day cash management.
- The 'prudential indicators' and 'treasury management indicators' which control and regulate the extent of the Council's financial activities.
- The annual investment strategy which sets out the Council's criteria for choosing investments and limiting its exposure to loss.
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy, which sets out how the Council will pay for capital assets through revenue each year.

Borrowing and Investments

The level of council borrowing is in line with capital expenditure plans. However, both its investment and borrowing activities are heavily influenced by the current climate of low interest rates.

The Council continues to follow a strategy of keeping cash balances to a minimum and avoiding external borrowing unless absolutely necessary.

In the short term, this has resulted in significant revenue budget reductions, whilst also serving to protect the Council from the risk of exposure to loss on the money markets, which remain relatively fragile.

8. Housing Budget



Housing development at Lawnside Green, Wolverhampton

The City of Wolverhampton Council owns just under 23,000 houses and day-to-day management and maintenance is carried out for the Council by its arm's-length management organisation, Wolverhampton Homes, four tenant management organisations and estate management boards. The Council also provides a number of specialist housing services.

The Council has recently established WV Living, a local housing company, to deliver up to 1,000 new homes for the private market for sale and rent. This will contribute to the core objectives of economic growth, developing a vibrant city and increasing the number of homes. There will be a positive impact on skills and employability targets. In utilising sites owned by the Council, some of which may have been challenging for private sector development, this initiative is likely to result in speedier redevelopment than if left entirely to the market. By including homes for market rent, as well as sale, and building 25 per cent of affordable homes, the City will be guaranteed a good pace of build which is not always characteristic of the market.

Housing - the 30 Year Business Plan

The Council takes a long-term view of housing, forecasting capital, management and maintenance spending requirements and available resources over the next 30 years.

The Housing Budget is expected to have sufficient resources to fund the £1.6 billion of capital works required, as well as meeting management and maintenance obligations for council housing provision over the next 30 years.

Housing Revenue

The Council has assumed that rents will rise in line with government policy over the course of the 30 year life of the business plan. The current business plan, which was approved by Council on 27 January 2016, meets the requirement to bring the Council's existing houses to the Decent Homes standard and maintain them at this standard. It also includes budget for a significant new build programme.

In the Chancellor's budget of July 2015, it was announced that all council dwelling rents would reduce by 1% each year from 1 April 2016 for

the next four years to 2020. The proposed 1% reduction will be mandatory once legislation is enacted. In Wolverhampton, a 1% reduction in dwelling rents each year for the next four years compounds to an overall reduction of 12%. Over the 30 year lifetime of the business plan this equates to £622 million shortfall in income based upon previous projections.

Since the July budget announcement, Wolverhampton Homes and the Council have worked together to address this shortfall within the business plan. In addition opportunities have been considered to release additional resources to enable an acceleration of new build housing within the HRA.

The previous HRA business plan was predicated on the principle that rents will rise year on year by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1%, using the government's assumptions on future rates of inflation. After the proposed 1% reduction in

rents for the next four years the proposed plan returns to the assumption that rents will rise by CPI plus 1% and a CPI rate of 2%.

Building costs within the plan were linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI); the business plan has been re-modelled using CPI plus 0.5% as inflation for building costs.

Assumptions in properties lost through demolition and right to buy have been amended assuming that right to buy sales will tail off over the next few years and plateau at around 130 per year. After the proposals for Heath Town are implemented, there are no other demolition schemes being considered. These measures combined, which are reflected in Table 3 below, reduce projected costs within the HRA business plan by £280 million.

Table 3: Housing Revenue Budget (30 Year Business Plan)

	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-15	Years 16-20	Years 21-25	Years 26-30
	£ thousands					
Income						
Dwelling Rents	(456,295)	(497,927)	(558,980)	(622,795)	(696,381)	(784,181)
Other Rents	(1,781)	(1,999)	(2,254)	(2,549)	(2,891)	(3,287)
Service Charges	(33,612)	(39,649)	(43,624)	(48,029)	(52,734)	(58,320)
	(491,688)	(539,575)	(604,858)	(673,373)	(752,006)	(845,788)
Expenditure						
Management and Maintenance (net of retained surpluses)	242,290	262,510	288,802	320,897	355,316	393,575
Depreciation and provision for redemption of debt	172,972	201,043	256,673	303,267	356,539	408,623
Net Financing Costs	76,426	76,022	59,383	49,209	40,151	43,590
	491,688	539,575	604,858	673,373	752,006	845,788
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Further reviewing and subsequent remodeling of the 30 year housing capital budget has identified further revenue savings (see Table 4 overleaf), primarily as a result of modifications to decent homes investment plans and lower borrowing and interest costs.

Housing Capital

The Housing Capital Account includes long-term capital expenditure plans and financing arrangements for investing in the Council's housing stock. The following table shows that the Council has sufficient resources to fund its capital spending requirements over the duration of the business plan.

A significant amount of work has gone into reviewing the entire capital programme and the asset management plan and building cost model that underpins it.

Table 4: Housing Capital Account (30 Year Business Plan)

	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-15	Years 16-20	Years 21-25	Years 26-30
	£ thousands					
Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure	199,313	173,697	196,179	305,578	373,764	380,221
Financing						
Major Repairs Reserve	(110,276)	(108,785)	(107,220)	(105,574)	(103,845)	(102,475)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(23,120)	(15,238)	(15,238)	(15,238)	(15,238)	(15,238)
Borrowing	(65,917)	(49,674)	(73,721)	(184,766)	(254,681)	(262,508)
	(199,313)	(173,697)	(196,179)	(305,578)	(373,764)	(380,221)
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-



The first row of houses to be built in Wolverhampton for thirty years at Thompson Avenue



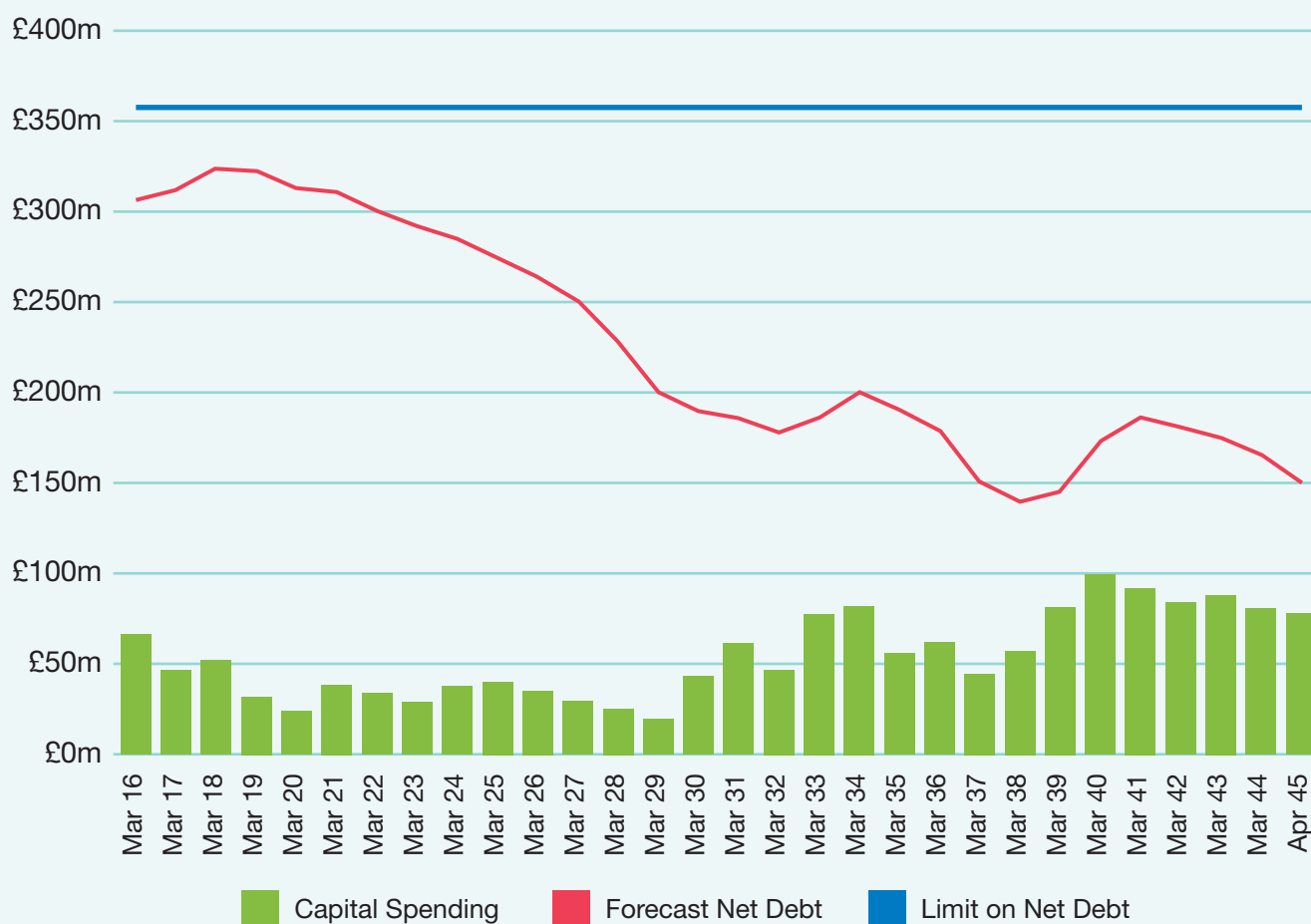
Home improvements to homes in Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton

Based upon up to date stock condition information, adjustments to when components replaced with decent homes investment will need to be replaced again have resulted in a further reduction in costs of £340 million over the 30 years of the business plan.

When this figure is adjusted for inflation over 30 years it reduces costs by an additional £80 million. It also results in less borrowing over 30 years and therefore less interest payable, reducing projected costs by a further £120 million. The overall impact of these measures equates to a reduction of £540 million over the lifetime of the business plan.

Chart 6 below shows the relationship between the Council's capital spending plans for the next thirty years and borrowing levels and reflects the Council's investment plans (*previous page*).

Chart 6: Capital Expenditure Forecast and Debt Curve 2015/16 to 2044/45





Properties built for the Care and Support Specialised Housing Scheme at Fifth Avenue

As part of the self-financing arrangements introduced from April 2012 there is a cap placed on the level of debt that can be incurred by the Housing Revenue Account. The maximum amount for Wolverhampton is £356.8 million as shown by the blue line above. The chart graphically presents the forecast debt curve based upon the capital expenditure, including new build, included within the Council's business plan. This shows the maximum anticipated debt of £319.4 million in 2017/18 providing headroom for realisation of some of the associated risks such as changes to interest and inflation rates.

Managing risks

Due to the size and nature of activities associated with the Council's Housing Budget, there are inherent risks. The Council adopts a proactive approach to managing and mitigating these risks as far as possible. The budgets are actively managed to ensure income and expenditure plans are closely monitored and remedial action is taken where necessary.

The Housing Budget is also exposed to interest rate movements, as interest costs account for approximately one-tenth of the total revenue expenditure. The Council manages and monitors this risk on a daily basis.

A further significant risk relating to the Business Plan is the high level of capital expenditure that it assumes. Relatively small variations in estimates and assumptions could have a significant impact. The Council receives regular comprehensive updates on forecast capital expenditure requirements from Wolverhampton Homes.

The overall risk currently associated with the Housing Budget is Amber.

9. Strategy Summary

In summary, the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy not only reflects the Council's corporate priorities, but also plays a critical role in shaping the Council's vision, providing a framework within which decisions about future services can be made. The Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy details strategies in place for the medium term:

- **Revenue Budget Strategy**

The Revenue Budget Strategy sets out the Council's General Services revenue expenditure plans and the level of available resources. The Council has set a balanced budget for 2016/17 without having to call on its general reserve. The latest version of the General Services revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, however, projects that unless the Council takes further action the annual budget deficit will stand at £54.6 million by 2019/20.

- **Capital Investment Strategy**

The Capital Investment Strategy sets out the plans to invest over £200 million in the City over the next five years together with the

funding to support that investment. Despite the financial challenge and constraints, the Council is committed to investing in the future.

- **Treasury Management Strategy**

The Treasury Management Strategy sets out how the Council's treasury service supports borrowing and capital investment decisions together with the management of day to day cash balances in order to minimise the impact on revenue budgets and protect the Council from loss.

- **Housing 30-Year Business Plan**

The Housing Business Plan sets out what the Council considers it will need to invest in council housing together with its annual management and maintenance plans over the next 30 years, and how it plans to pay for these improvement programmes.



10. Technical Terms Explained

Though we have tried to make the language in this document as clear as possible, there are occasions where we have had to use technical terms. We have explained these in the body of the text where we were able to, but we hope you will find this list useful.

Where a word or phrase appears in blue italics you will find a technical definition below.

Arm's Length Management Organisation

Often called an ALMO, this is an organisation which is controlled by a parent body such as the Council, but which is in charge of its own day-to-day operations. Wolverhampton Homes is a good example.

Balances and Reserves

An amount of money that the Council has chosen to set aside in order to meet future spending needs.

Budget

A budget is a plan of approved spending during a financial year.

Business Rates

Businesses across the country have to pay business rates. The Government decides how much they should pay and local authorities collect the money. Councils keep approximately 50% of the business rates' growth raised in their own area with the balance being paid over to Government.

Cabinet

The Cabinet is chaired by the Leader of the Council and comprises nine other Councillors from the political party in power. Strategic decisions about the running of the council and its services are taken by the Cabinet.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the purchase of property, plant and equipment, or expenditure which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing asset.

Capital Grant

A contribution, usually by Central Government, towards the cost of Capital Expenditure.

Capital Programme

The plan of approved capital expenditure.

Council Tax

A tax paid by residents to the Council, based on the value of their property, to be spent on local services.

Council Tax Reduction

Council Tax Reduction is help to pay Council Tax for both tenants and owner occupiers on a low income.

Dedicated School Grant

A specific grant from Central Government which is mainly delegated to schools to provide educational services.

Deficit

This occurs when spending exceeds income.

Equality Analysis

An equality analysis is a way of finding out whether a policy, service or strategy will have an adverse impact on any particular group or sector of the community.

Financial Year

As with all councils' this runs from 1 April to 31 March for the City of Wolverhampton.

Full Council

All 60 elected Councillors in Wolverhampton meet regularly (every 6 weeks) as the Full Council, to make decisions on major issues affecting the Council and the City.

General Services Budget

The cost of all services of the Council except for Council Housing. The net cost of General Services is met by Council Tax, Government Grants and Business Rates.

Government Grants

Assistance by Government and inter-governmental agencies and similar bodies, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority, in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council.

Growth Deals

Growth Deals provide central government funds to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which are partnerships between local authorities and businesses, for projects that benefit the local area and economy.

Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit is help for tenants with all or part of their rent.

Housing Budget

A ring-fenced account detailing the day to day income and expenditure arising from the provision of council housing.

Housing Capital Account

A ring-fenced account detailing the Council's investment which adds value to council housing and the associated capital funding streams.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

A minimum amount set by law, which the Council must charge to the General Services revenue account, to set aside to repay borrowing.

Prudential Indicators

Financial and statistical indicators that the Council uses to identify whether capital investment and debt/treasury management plans are prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure on the day-to-day running costs of services, for example employees, premises.

Ring-fenced Budget/Grant

Certain budgets or grants must be maintained separately outside of the General Services account.

Stakeholder

A person, group or organisation that has an interest or concern in the Council or the community it serves.

Treasury Management

Management of the Council's investments, borrowings and daily cash balances.



The bridge connecting the railway and bus stations is an integral part of the future Metro and Train Station development)

Reports referred to in this plan can be found at
<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>

*Capital budget outturn 2015/16
including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2016/17
and financial strategy*

Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17

*Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Strategy
2016/17 to 2019/20*

Council Tax Formal Resolutions

*Housing Revenue Account business plan
(including 2015/16 budget, rents and service charges)*



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audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH



Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Wolverhampton Interchange Programme	
Referring body	Cabinet (Resources) Panel – 1 November 2016	
Councillor to present report	Councillor John Reynolds / Councillor Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds / Councillor Andrew Johnson City Economy / Resources	
Accountable director	Keren Jones, City Economy	
Originating service	City Development	
Accountable employee(s)	David Moore Tel Email	Head of Major Projects 01902 555871 David.moore2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board Cabinet (Resources) Panel	25 October 2016 1 November 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve that the Council underwrites additional costs of £8.1 million initially funded through prudential borrowing with the expectation that external funding will be secured in due course.
2. Approve that the capital programme is updated to reflect the additional budget required.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Council's Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report on the Wolverhampton Interchange Programme on 1 November 2016 and recommended that a contribution of £10.7 million from the West Midlands Combined Authority be accepted and that the capital budget be increased to reflect the additional expenditure and associated funding, with the completion of associated legal agreements delegated to the Director of Governance.
- 1.2 The Cabinet (Resources) Panel also noted that a separate report would be presented to Council to seek approval to the Authority underwriting additional costs of up to £8.1 million for the programme and including this in the capital budget, funded initially through prudential borrowing, recognising that it is the expectation that external funding will be secured in due course to fund the additional costs.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Wolverhampton Interchange Programme (WIP) is strategically important to the Strategic Economic Plan for the City and the wider Black Country. It will deliver a multi-modal transport hub comprising a new train station, multi-storey car park (MSCP) extension and an extended tram connecting to the railway station through a new stop at the bus station. It will deliver 30,000 sq.m of office, retail and leisure floor space, £80 million of private sector funding and 2,000 jobs.
- 2.2 On 11 March 2015, Cabinet agreed the strategy for bringing forward the Interchange Programme and gave approval to use Council assets to support delivery of the scheme.
- 2.3 The partners to the programme include the City of Wolverhampton Council, Network Rail, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Canals and River Trust (CRT) and Virgin Trains (as the Station Franchise Operator). The developer for the project is Neptune Projects Limited (Neptune).
- 2.4 The West Midlands Combined Authority/Transport for West Midlands (WMCA/TfWM) will provide £21.9 million funding for the programme, which is split into £10.7 million for the Station and Car Park, with a further £11.2 million allocated to the Metro Extension.
- 2.5 The programme has made good progress to date, building on the success of i10 and i11, with i10 now close to being fully let, ahead of previous budgeted estimations. The success of i10 has also increased demand for premium office accommodation in the City, and other office sites are also now being brought forward in the programme – including plans for commercial buildings at i9 (on Railway Street) and the Steam Mill site. The Steam Mill has been demolished and the site cleared, and work started in February 2016 to extend the Multi-Storey Car Park, and is expected to complete in December 2016.
- 2.6 As part of their responsibilities under the Master Development Agreement, Neptune are in the process of appointing a contractor to undertake the station demolition and reconstruction works.

- 2.7 Some budget pressures and cost increases have emerged on the programme and were reviewed by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 1 November 2016. The Cabinet (Resources) Panel were also made aware of activities that are underway to secure additional external funding to cover the additional cost pressures.
- 2.8 In summary, the costs to the project have increased by £12.4 million, and the WMCA/TfWM has agreed to underwrite the additional costs arising from the metro extension (£4.3 million) whilst external funding is secured from sources identified to the Cabinet (Resources) Panel. This is currently expected to result in the Council underwriting the balance of funding (ie £8.1 million) whilst additional external funding is secured. It is expected that the additional funding will be secured before the programme cashflow needs to use the funding that is being underwritten by the Council.
- 2.9 The Council is recommended to agree to underwrite the funding gap of £8.1 million in the short term until such time as external funding is secured.
- 2.10 The Cabinet (Resources) Panel have recommended that the contribution of £10.7 million from the WMCA/TfWM be accepted and that the capital budget for the programme be increased to reflect the additional expenditure and associated funding, and to delegate completion of associated legal agreements to the Director of Governance. This would allow Neptune to progress with procurement of the contractor.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The overall scheme is now estimated to cost £51.8 million which is £12.4 million above total budget. The additional costs relating to the metro extension (£4.3 million) will be met by the WMCA/TfWM. There are a number of bids in place to secure funding for the remaining balance of £8.1 million. A cost consultant is being employed to review and challenge some of the cost increases and will monitor closely future commitments and identify opportunities for value engineering so reducing the likelihood of further cost increases.
- 3.2 The project has now reached a stage where station design is almost complete and a contract will need to be issued to allow the build to commence in early 2017. A decision not to proceed until formal offers of funding are received would cause a delay to the scheme and incur some additional costs. Inflation increases due to delays to the timing built into the initial business case are one reason for the escalation of costs above budget.
- 3.3 Council is requested to underwrite the shortfall of £8.1 million on the MSCP/station element of the project, initially using prudential borrowing, recognising that it is the expectation that external funding will be secured. The current cash flow profile of the programme suggests that this sum would not be required until late 2017, by which time it is hoped that external funding to meet the shortfall will have been confirmed. It should be noted that at this stage there is no absolute certainty over securing the external funding. In the event that the external funding is not secured there are two options available:

- I. To fund the gap through generating capital receipt(s) and/or
- II. To use prudential borrowing which would cost up to £400,000 revenue per annum.

3.4 The grant agreements with Walsall as Accountable Body for Local Growth Fund and Local Transport Board have clauses that provide for clawback of some/all grant in the event of the specified outputs not being delivered. Failure to progress with the redevelopment of the station could lead to clawback arrangements being invoked which would require the Council to meet the costs previously funded from grant through its own resources [MF/27102016/L]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The Council is the station promoter and station facilitator for the Wolverhampton Interchange Project. It has and is required to enter into grant and funding agreements with various financial undertakings attached to the agreements.
- 4.2 The project has reached a stage where the construction of the multi storey car park is near to completion with the station works underway. As detailed with the body of the report, a decision not to proceed until funding streams are in place would cause a delay to the Wolverhampton Interchange Project with potential financial implications.
[RB/31102016/K]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are not expected to be any implications for Equalities as a result of this report.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 The Wolverhampton Interchange Project will have significant environmental benefits by facilitating the interchange between public transport modes and enabling an increase in the use of public transport. This will have a positive impact on the reduction of CO2 emissions. Underused and derelict land and buildings will be brought back into beneficial use. The buildings will also be built to a high environmental standard. The signing of the Letter of Intent will contribute to the progress in achieving these environmental improvements.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 The Interchange development will produce assets that are operated by transport service providers or the private sector.

8.2 The commercial development floor space developed at Block 11, Queens Building and i10 are owned by the Council and managed by the Corporate Landlord Service.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- Cabinet Report 10 April 2013 – Block 10, Wolverhampton Interchange
- Cabinet Report 26 February 2013 - Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14
- Cabinet Report 24 July 2013 – Annual Treasury Report 2012/13 & Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Quarter One 2013/14
- Cabinet Report 18 September – Blocks 10 & 11, Wolverhampton Interchange
- Council Report 6 November 2013 – Blocks 10 & 11, Wolverhampton Interchange
- Cabinet Report 11 March 2015 Wolverhampton Interchange Progress Update and Delivery Strategy
- Cabinet (Resources) Panel 1 November 2016 Wolverhampton Interchange Programme

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Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Community Governance Review	
Referring body	Special Advisory Group, 21 October 2016	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Support	
Accountable employee(s)	Martyn Sargeant Tel Email	Head of Democratic Services 01902 555045 martyn.sargeant@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Special Advisory Group	21 October 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Council is recommended to:

1. Agree to conduct a community governance review for the whole of Wolverhampton but with more detailed work in the Tettenhall area.
2. Agree the draft terms of reference for a community governance review of the whole of the city.
3. Agree, in principle, that the Special Advisory Group, to act as the lead committee for the review process, ultimately making recommendations to Council for the city's community governance arrangements.

Recommendation(s) for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. That the costs of the review, to include resourcing the review itself and the associated consultation, have yet to be quantified but will be reported to the Special Advisory Group in due course.
2. The proposed timetable for the review.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has received a formal request (dated 8 April 2016) for a community governance review, specifically in relation to Tettenhall Wightwick and Tettenhall Regis, to which it has a statutory obligation to respond. As the request meets the legislative criteria for triggering a review, the Council has a duty to arrange a community governance review. The Special Advisory Group has considered a report on the proposed approach for doing so. This report makes recommendations to Council on that approach.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 21 October 2016 the Special Advisory Group considered a report on a response to a request received for a community governance review.

- 2.2 Copies of the report have been deposited in the Members' Rooms and can also be accessed online on the Council's website. [Click here to access the report](#)

Councillors are asked to refer to the report when considering the recommendation from Special Advisory Group.

- 2.3 The Special Advisory Group:

1. *Agreed to conduct a community governance review for the whole of Wolverhampton but with more detailed work in the Tettenhall area.*
2. *Considered the options for a community governance review in light of the advantages and disadvantages outlined in section three.*
3. *Agreed the draft terms of reference for a community governance review of the whole of the city, for consideration by Council.*
4. *Agreed, in principle, subject to Council approval, to act as the lead committee for the review process, ultimately making recommendations to Council for the city's community governance arrangements.*
5. *Agreed the proposed timetable for the review, subject to ratification by Council.*
6. *Noted the costs of the review, to include resourcing the review itself and the associated consultation, have yet to be quantified but will be reported to the Special Advisory Group in due course.*

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

- 3.1 The implications are discussed in the body of the Special Advisory Group report.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Special Advisory Group report – 21 October 2016



Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Revised Petitions Scheme	
Referring body	Special Advisory Group, 21 October 2016	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal Governance	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Special Advisory Group	21 October 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to agree the following:

1.
 - a. Petitions with fewer than 2,499 signatures be considered and responded to by employees, within 28 days of receipt by the relevant service area. A summary of responses will be reported to Scrutiny Board, the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and, where appropriate, the relevant Ward Members.
 - b. Petitions with 2,500-4,999 signatures be considered by the relevant scrutiny panel with recommendations made for action by employees or review by the Executive as appropriate.
 - c. Petitions with 5,000+ signatures be considered by the Council as per the existing arrangements.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council is obligated to operate a petitions scheme. This report recommends revised petitions arrangements following the dissolution of the Petitions Committee and the adoption of new arrangements for considering petitions from the public.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2016 it was resolved '*To approve the dissolution of the Petitions Committee, as previously recommended by the Special Advisory Group*' (min 8(6) refers).
- 2.2 The full recommendation of the Special Advisory Group (SAG) was as follows:
1. *That the proposed arrangements for considering petitions from the public from 19 May 2016 be approved, specifically:*
 - a. *Petitions with fewer than 50 signatures to be considered and responded to by employees, with a summary reported to Scrutiny Board and the relevant Cabinet Member(s).*
 - b. *Petitions with 50 – 2,499 signatures to be considered by the relevant scrutiny panel with recommendations made for action by employees or review by the Executive as appropriate.*
 - c. *Petitions with 2,500+ signatures to be considered by the Council as per the existing arrangements.*
 2. *That the arrangements for considering petitions be reviewed in twelve months' time.*
 3. *That the development of a protocol for the consideration of petitions by scrutiny panels, to ensure consistency in the way they are reviewed and responded to be supported.*

3.0 Reviewing the Scheme

- 3.1 In line with SAG recommendations, Full Council agreed that the newly implemented scheme be reviewed in twelve months' time. However, discussions at Scrutiny Board and with the Leader and Managing Director indicated that it would be preferential to bring forward and refresh the scheme in advance of next May.
- 3.2 The majority of petitions received contain between 50 and 2,499 signatories. To put the numbers received into perspective, during 2015, 70% of petitions received had fewer than 100 signatures and only 10% (one petition) met the threshold for consideration by Council (2,500+ signatures). The other two petitions received had 132 and 852 signatures.
- 3.3 Under the current system it is difficult to take swift action and respond to petitioners in a timely manner due to the need to wait for the next meeting of an appropriate scrutiny body.

- 3.4 At the 12 July 2016 meeting of the Scrutiny Board, Board members expressed the view that the ability of scrutiny to undertake investigations into areas to which their work could add value was fettered by the time that it had to dedicate to considering petitions. Both scrutiny members and officers supporting the scrutiny process agreed that a less bureaucratic approach continues to involve scrutiny in the petitions process is therefore required.
- 3.5 Through the Chair of SAG, Scrutiny Chairs and political groups were consulted on options for a revised scheme not dissimilar to that of other comparable local authorities. SAG considered consultation responses and agreed that the revised scheme, as recommended in this report, should be presented to Full Council.
- 3.6 The key benefits to the proposed amendments are:
1. Scrutiny bodies will have a greater amount of time to undertake investigations into areas to which their work could add value whilst still being involved in the petitions process.
 2. The overall quality of scrutiny could be improved.
 3. Officer time preparing reports and attending meetings will be reduced.
 4. Most importantly, officers will be empowered to take swift action to address concerns raised by the public via petitions, thereby inspiring trust and confidence in the Council and demonstrating that it puts customers first.
- 3.7 It is proposed that petitions will be distributed internally to Heads of Service who will be responsible for complying with the requirement that a response is sent within 28 days of receipt. Where the petition covers multiple services/portfolios a lead Head of Service will be identified by Democratic Services. In all cases the relevant Cabinet Member(s) is to be informed of the outcome of any petition and a central record of the petition and both the Head of Service response and the Cabinet Member(s) update will be kept by Democratic Services.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Board receive an annual report monitoring compliance with the requirement to respond within 28 days and summarising the outcome in each case. This would enable scrutiny to monitor the success of the new process, including performance monitoring of officer actions. It should also be noted that, although petitions containing less than the required threshold would not routinely be considered by scrutiny, in some cases officers, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), may form the view that consideration by scrutiny would add value.
- 3.9 Whilst the Council promotes its petitions arrangements and has an online system for submission, the number of petitions received is relatively low (10 in 2015, plus one that the lead petitioner requested be put on hold and was therefore not considered).
- 3.10 Should either of the proposed amendments to the current thresholds be adopted, scrutiny will still retain an important role in relation to petitions. Petitions with the appropriate number of signatories will continue to be considered by the appropriate scrutiny body. In addition, petitions will be monitored through a performance indicator and the Scrutiny Board will receive details of all petitions received by the Council through

its regular Corporate Performance Monitoring reports, therefore enabling scrutiny to assess the success of the amended scheme.

- 3.11 The Scrutiny Board will also retain its statutory role in relation to dealing with appeals from petitioners who believe that their petition has been dealt with incorrectly.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 If agreed by Full Council (a petition scheme must be approved at a meeting of the authority before it comes into force), subsequent amendments to the Constitution which will be required can be picked up as part of the ongoing review of the Constitution.
- 4.2 Following agreement by Full Council, the Scrutiny Board will be required to consider the protocol for considering petitions that fall within the relevant threshold.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The payment of special responsibility allowances to the Chair and Vice-chair ceased on dissolution of the Petitions Committee saving just over £12,000. There are no additional financial implications associated with the proposed revised petition scheme.
[Financial Code: GE/26102016/J]

6. Legal implications (including code).

- 6.1 Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council is obligated to operate a petitions scheme. If adopted, the recommendations in this report would ensure that those obligations continue to be met.
[Legal Code: TS/26102016/P]

7. Equalities implications.

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

8. Environmental implications.

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising as a result of this report.

9. Human resources implications.

- 9.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising as a result of this report.

10. Corporate landlord implications.

- 10.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising as a result of this report.

11. Schedule of background papers

- 11.1 Special Advisory Group, 21 October 2016 ([Link](#))



Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Motions on Notice	
Referring body/Person	Councillor Phil Bateman and Councillor Roger Lawrence (Leader of the Council)	
Cabinet Members with lead responsibility	N/A	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Support	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That Council consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 For Council to consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules as follows:

1. Local Impact Of National Cuts To Community Pharmacies

Councillor Phil Bateman will move the following motion:

"This Council notes with concern the government announcement on 14th October 2016 that it is reducing funding for community pharmacies by £113m in the four months from December 2016 - March 2017.

This equates to an average loss of £8,000 for each pharmacy in Wolverhampton, representing a 12% cut. In addition the timing of this announcement means it is required to be delivered in a very short time scale, leaving local pharmacies very little time to plan or implement.

A further cut of £208m, on average £14,500 per pharmacy in Wolverhampton, will be imposed next year.

These cuts will have a direct negative impact on the Council's strategic priorities related to Public Health as well as the possible closure of local pharmacies across the city, leading to a reduction in accessible healthcare for vulnerable communities, and increased pressure on other parts of the health and social care systems.

We therefore call on the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to write to our local MPs raising these concerns and asking them to lobby government to highlight the local impact of this national policy."

2. City of Sanctuary

Councillor Roger Lawrence, Leader of the Council will move the following motion:

"Wolverhampton has a proud history of welcoming diverse communities, particularly those suffering from war and persecution.

As the refugee crisis continues this city will accept and welcome our share of people in need.

To promote the inclusion and welfare of those coming to the city we resolve

- To join the growing network of cities across the country by designating Wolverhampton as a City of Sanctuary
- To support local people in welcoming and helping new communities to integrate into local and civic society

- To promote the positive contribution migrants make to the social, cultural and community life of Wolverhampton
- To work with regional and national partners to provide a safe home for unaccompanied asylum seeking children”

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Meeting of the City Council

9 November 2016

Report title	Questions to Cabinet Members	
Referring body/Person	Councillor Paul Singh and Councillor Udey Singh	
Cabinet Members with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans, (City Environment)	Councillor Paul Sweet (Health and Wellbeing)
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Support	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That Cabinet Members respond to questions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 For Cabinet Members to respond to questions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules as follows:

1. Bus Lane Fines

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

“Could the Cabinet Member inform Council of the revenue to the authority from bus lane enforcement fines in Wolverhampton during the last two financial years?”

2. Childhood Vaccinations

Councillor Udey Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Paul Sweet): -

“Could the Cabinet Member inform Council of the percentage take-up of childhood vaccinations offered universally through the NHS by children in Wolverhampton during the last two completed financial years, and an indication of the likely take-up so far exhibited in this financial year?”