

Council Meeting

1 February 2017

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:

Contact Jaswinder Kaur
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Tel 01902 555043

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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 - 10)
[To receive the minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2016]
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]
- 5 **State of the City Address**
[To receive the Leader of the Council's statement regarding the city]

DECISION ITEMS

- 6 **Housing Revenue Account business plan (including 2017/18 budget rents and service charges)** (Pages 11 - 40)
[To consider the updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan]
- 7 **Municipal Calendar of Meetings** (Pages 41 - 46)
[To receive the Municipal Calendar for 2017 - 2018]
- 8 **School Standards - current overview** (Pages 47 - 54)
[To receive an update on the current standards of schools and education outcomes]
- 9 **Questions to Cabinet Members** (Pages 55 - 56)
[That the Cabinet Members for Education, Governance and City Economy respond to questions received]

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Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 14 December 2016

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)

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 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 Linda Leach
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Phil Page
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 Paul Singh

Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Keith Ireland
Kevin O'Keefe
Claire Nye
Linda Sanders
Julien Kramer
Colin Parr
Laura Phillips
Jaswinder Kaur

Managing Director
Director of Governance
Section 151 Officer
Strategic Director of People
Director of Education
Head of Governance
Strategic Business Manager
Democratic Services Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christopher Haynes, Pat Patten and Arun Photey.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, Councillor John Reynolds seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9 November 2016, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

Resolution of Thanks

The Mayor presented a gift of appreciation to Councillor Ian Brookfield as a lasting and enjoyable reminder of his year as Mayor in 2015-2016.

The Late Former Mayor and Councillor Margaret Benton

The Mayor announced that it was with great sadness that we had learned of the death of, former Mayor and Councillor, Margaret Benton on the 6 December 2016. The Mayor extended the council's condolences to Margaret Benton's family.

The council stood in silent tribute to Margaret Benton.

Holocaust Memorial Day

The mayor invited councillors to a service of remembrance, led by Interfaith Wolverhampton, which was taking place on Holocaust Memorial Day, Friday 27 January 2017, at 11:00 am at the Cenotaph.

The Mayor wished everyone present at the meeting and across the city a happy, healthy and enjoyable Christmas.

5 Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17

Councillor Andrew Johnson provided Council with an update on the 2016/17 financial performance of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programmes and the revised forecast for 2016/17 as at quarter two of 2016/17. Revisions were recommended to the current approved General Fund capital programme covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Councillor Andrew Johnson proposed and Councillor Peter Bilson seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Wendy Thompson welcomed the extension to the western side of i54, she noted that the borrowing to the West Midlands Combined Authority would not be at a detriment to the Council.

Resolved:

1. That borrowing of £30.0 million be undertaken and a capital grant be paid of the equivalent amount to the West Midlands Combined Authority – Land Remediation Fund be approved. This borrowing was required until the powers of the West Midlands Combined Authority (CA) were revised to enable them to borrow for non-transport related purposes. The CA would in return pay a revenue grant to the Council to cover the borrowing costs of interest and minimum revenue provision.
2. That the additional General Fund resources of £3.4 million be approved for;
 - i. nine new projects totalling £1.9 million.
 - ii. i54 Western Extension, a new project, of £1.5 million.

6 Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2016/17

Councillor Andrew Johnson presented a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the second quarter of 2016/17 as part of the mid-year review, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2016.

Councillor Andrew Johnson proposed and Councillor Peter Bilson seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Andrew Wynn noted that the Treasury Management Report was well presented, however was concerned in relation to the economic factors which had enabled the council to forecast savings and that the council needed to proceed on the side of caution on financial engineering. He further added that the general reserve be built and replenished.

Councillor Andrew Johnson agreed with the comments made and clarified the council was moving to replenish the general reserve and that the Treasury Management Team kept a close eye on the market and external advisors also provide assurance that the council was acting decisively in the economic environment.

Resolved:

1. That a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement had been undertaken and the Council had operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2016 be noted.
2. That savings of £533,000 for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were forecast from treasury management activities in 2016/17 be noted.

7 Appointment of External Auditors

Councillor Andrew Johnson advised that following the closure of the Audit Commission the Council would be responsible for appointing its own external auditors by the 31 December 2017 for 2018/19 onwards. A number of options had been considered by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel to put in place new arrangements in time to make an appointment of new external auditors by the statutory deadline of the 31 December 2017. Cabinet Resource Panel recommended Option 3 to opt-in to a sector led body for a Council appointment.

Councillor Andrew Johnson proposed and Councillor Christine Mills seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

That the recommendation of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel be approved to opt-in to a sector led body either jointly with the seven West Midlands Combined Authority councils or if a joint agreement cannot be reached then a sole appointment of external auditors for 2018/19 onwards for a maximum of five years and that authority was delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to award the contract when the appointment process was completed.

8 Making of Employment of Children Byelaws

Councillor Ian Brookfield recommend to the Council the making of byelaws that replace those that were made on 16 December 1998 and to revoke those made on 16 December 1998. The byelaw be amended to include that employment of a child aged 13 years in light agricultural or horticultural work was permitted by and under direct supervision of parents or guardians on an occasional basis.

Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed and Councillor Milkinder Jaspal seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the making of the byelaw be authorised as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, relating to the employment of children and to affix the common seal of the Council.
2. That the Director of Governance be authorised to publish in one or more local newspapers a notice of the Council's intention to apply for confirmation of the byelaw.
3. That the Director of Governance be authorised to submit the byelaw for confirmation.
4. That the revocation of the existing byelaw relating to the employment of children that was made on 16 December 1998 be approved.

9 **Written Questions**

Councillor Udey Singh asked the following question:

According to research it is widely acknowledged that children from white working class in the UK are falling behind their BME counterparts in terms of education. Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether this is also the case in Wolverhampton?

Councillor Claire Darke confirmed that the City of Wolverhampton reflected national trend.

Councillor Udey Singh asked a supplementary question:

Could the Cabinet Member advise whether a specific strategy had been developed for white working class children to ensure they do not fall behind their BME counterparts?

Councillor Claire Darke responded that all children deserved a good start to life. She highlighted that the United Nations was concerned that austerity policies had pushed children further into poverty. 85% of schools in Wolverhampton were good or outstanding and six schools had a national profile.

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Meeting of the City Council

1 February 2017

Report title	Housing Revenue Account business plan (including 2017/18 budget rents and service charges)	
Referring body	Cabinet, 18 January 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Peter Bilson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson, Housing and City Assets Councillor Andrew Johnson, Resources	
Accountable director	Lesley Roberts, City Housing Mark Taylor, Finance	
Originating service	Housing Service	
Accountable employee(s)	Kenny Aitchison	Service Manager Housing Strategy and Development Tel 01902 554841 Email kenny.aitchison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Martin Fox	Finance Business Partner Tel 01902 553470 Email martin.fox2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Cabinet, 18 January 2017	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Implement the 1% reduction in social housing rents in accordance with the Welfare Reform and Work Act and to give 28 days' notice to all secure and introductory tenants of the rent reduction from 3 April 2017.
2. Adopt the business plan set out at appendix A as the approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan including;

- a) The revenue budget for 2017/18 at Appendix A3;
 - b) The capital programme for 2017/18 to 2020/21 at Appendix A4 including the increased new build programme.
3. Agree the rates for garage rents and service charges set out in appendices B1-B3 and formally notify tenants.
 4. Agree from April 2017 all new tenancies can start on any day of the week to reduce void times, increase rental income and protect properties from potential anti-social behaviour.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents an updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan.
- 1.2 The report also provides, as an integral part of that business plan, a proposed HRA budget for 2017/18, including proposed rents and service charges to take effect from 3 April 2017, and a proposed HRA capital programme for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since the implementation of Housing Revenue Account self-financing in 2012, the Council has been required to set out its Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan. The business plan is monitored quarterly and reviewed annually to ensure that assumptions remain robust and resources within the plan are sufficient to meet expenditure requirements. Appendix D provides more detail on HRA self-financing.
- 2.2 Prior to 2014 the increase in rents was based upon a formula of retail price index (RPI) plus 0.5% plus £2.00. In 2014 the government introduced a new formula for increases of Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1%. In order to provide certainty for councils, the government stated that this rent policy would exist for 10 years. The Council's HRA business plan was therefore predicated upon rents going up by more than inflation each year throughout the lifetime of the plan.
- 2.3 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. This announcement was subsequently included in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. Previously, there was no statutory underpinning for local authority rent setting, the formulae in paragraph 2.2 were provided as guidance. The proposed 1% reduction is mandatory.
- 2.4 As part of the rent setting process for 2016/17, the Council approved a HRA Business Plan that accommodated the 1% reduction in dwelling rents each year for the next four years and amended the projections over the 30 year lifetime of the plan.

3.0 The HRA business plan 2017/18

- 3.1 Due to the comprehensive review undertaken last year, this year's review of the HRA Business Plan and the rent setting exercise has been a very straight forward exercise. The majority of the assumptions adopted last year remain unchanged. Inflation forecasts have been updated in line with the latest figures from the Office for Budget Responsibility. Services charges, in the main, remain unchanged with no proposed increases other than those agreed last year.

4.0 Capital Programme and New build programme

- 4.1 A full review of the Capital Programme was also undertaken last year with a number of work streams scaled back or stretched over a longer timeframe. After further review

additional capital expenditure on existing dwellings has been programmed over the next five years totalling £33.4 million. This brings forward spend profiled from subsequent years and is not an increase to the overall plan. This includes accelerating the delivery of the regeneration of Heath Town estate with the works to retained blocks being completed in four years rather than the six originally proposed. Also delivery of improvements to Ellerton Walk has been accelerated to complete within three years and not the six years originally programmed. The medium term roofing programme that was significantly scaled back during last year's review has been reinstated. The HRA capital programme is reviewed quarterly and the latest 5 year programme is included in Appendix A4.

- 4.2 During 2016/17 there have been approximately 40 new build starts and the capital programme now shows a pipeline of sites up to 2020/21 that will deliver around 450 new council homes, funded primarily from HRA capital but also funding received from the Homes and Communities Agency, developer contributions and retained Right to Buy receipts. An additional £15 million has been added to the programme in 2020/21 which will equate to approximately 107 new houses. This can be varied depending on schemes identified, on-going stock review and other external factors such as payments required to central government for the sale of Higher Value Assets.

5.0 Housing and Planning Act 2016

- 5.1 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 passed by Parliament in May will have a significant impact upon the HRA business plan. However, with announcements in the Autumn Statement in November 2016 the impact is not immediate.
- 5.2 Compulsory adoption of "Pay to Stay", where households earning more than £31,000 per annum would be required to pay up to a market rent for their council home has been scrapped. Councils will have the option to introduce a voluntary scheme if they wish.
- 5.3 The policy on "Higher Value Assets" where Local Authorities were expected to sell off higher value properties as they become void to fund the housing association tenant's Right to Buy, has been delayed for a year.
- 5.4 The Act requires local authorities to introduce flexible tenancies. Flexible tenancies are fixed term tenancies lasting from two to ten years. The Council was given the power to utilise flexible tenancies in the Localism Act 2011 but its Tenancy Strategy approved by Cabinet on 12 January 2013 chose not to do so. It is anticipated that all new tenancies starting after 1 April 2017 will be required to be for a fixed term but, as yet, DCLG has not issued the Regulations.

6.0 Risk analysis

- 6.1 A risk matrix is attached at Appendix E. The risk register has been updated to reflect the economic and legislative setting in which it operates. The major risks and mitigation factors are a little clearer this year than they were last, however an amount of uncertainty remains. The HRA will continue to be closely monitored.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 The four year 1% reduction to dwelling rents has been determined by central government and this was built into the Business plan model during the 2016/17 rent setting process. Increases to non-dwelling rents and service charges are set out in Appendix B. Service charges have only increased where necessary to achieve full cost recovery.
- 7.2 The Business plan model has been reviewed and the majority of the assumptions that underpin the plan are unchanged. The HRA is expected to have sufficient resources to fund £1.7 billion of capital works that will be required to its properties over the next 30 years, as well as meeting its management and maintenance obligations in the same period. Inflation forecasts have been updated in line with the latest figures from the Office for Budget Responsibility. Due to the possible forthcoming period of economic uncertainty it will be necessary to closely monitor the data underpinning assumptions in the model and forecast the effect of any changes.
- 7.3 The 5 year capital programme is reviewed quarterly and the latest version is shown in Appendix A4. The programme now shows a detailed breakdown of the budget previously earmarked for new build, these projects being subject to further reports to Cabinet (Resources) Panel. An additional £15 million has been earmarked for new build in 2020/21; however this can be varied as required by the availability of new schemes or affordability within the model.
- 7.4 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 in the HRA. The maximum amount for Wolverhampton is £356.8 million. Appendix A2 graphically presents the forecast debt curve based upon the capital expenditure, including new build, included within the business plan. This shows the maximum anticipated debt of £339.9 million in 2020/21 providing headroom for realisation of some of the risks to the business plan as set out in Appendix E.
- 7.5 There remains some uncertainty around the on-going impact on the HRA of the Housing and Planning Act. In particular there could be a significant annual payment required to cover the potential sale income from high cost voids which will be required by Government to support its policy of right to buy for housing association properties. There is no information currently available as to the basis of calculation of the one off payment or what sum might be required to be paid. This could have a significant impact on the business plan, dependant on the value of payment, and a further update will be provided once final information is available. [JB/08122016/R]

8.0 Legal implications

- 8.1 Statutory requirements as to the keeping of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act'). The 1989 Act include a duty, under Section 76 of the 1989 Act, to budget to prevent a debit balance on the HRA and to implement and review the budget.

- 8.2 Under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985, local housing authorities have the power to “*make such reasonable charges as they may determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses*”. Section 24 also requires local authorities, from time to time, to review rents and make such changes as circumstances may require. This provision conferring discretion as to rents and charges made to occupiers, is now subject to further restrictions arising from the provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.
- 8.3 Rent and other charges are excluded from the statutory definition of matters of housing management in respect of which local authorities are required to consult their tenants pursuant to Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 and Sections 137 and 143A of the Housing Act 1996 in relation to secure, introductory and demoted tenants respectively.
- 8.4 The Council has nevertheless undertaken to consult with tenants before seeking to change rent and other charges.
- 8.5 It is further provided by Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985 in relation to secure tenancies, (which also applies in respect of introductory tenancies) that its tenants are notified of variation of rent and other charges at least 28 days before the variation takes effect by service of a notice of variation. [RB/07122016/R]

9.0 Equalities implications

- 9.1 There is a difficult balance to be struck in deciding the levels at which rents and services charges are set and the income required to maintain and to improve services and properties. This is based upon a thirty-year forecast which sets out indicative levels of future rental income and forecast changes to expenditure levels. The Council has always operated a very open and consultative approach to service and rent reviews. Events, newsletters and social media have been utilised to engage with tenants.
- 9.2 An Equality Analysis has been completed and there are no implications to consider further. Details of the consultation with residents and stakeholders are attached at Appendix C.

10.0 Environmental implications

- 10.1 This report has no direct environmental implications. The Investment and improvement of the city housing stock will have a significant positive impact on the overall city environment.

11.0 Human resources implications

- 11.1 There are no direct human resources implications resulting from this report

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 12.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications resulting from this report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

- 13.1 Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016
- Housing and Planning Act 2016
- Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014
- The Housing Revenue Account self-financing determinations 2012

14.0 Schedule of Appendices

A	Housing Revenue Account business plan
A1	30-year business plan
A2	Forecast debt curve
A3	Medium term business plan
A4	Capital programme
B	Recommendations concerning income
B1	Non-dwelling rents
B2	Service charges and heating charges
B3	Hostel rents and charges
C	Summary of consultation responses
D	Background to the Housing Revenue Account
E	Risk analysis

Appendix A1

This report is PUBLIC –
[NOT PROTECTED]

30 year business plan 2017/18 to 2046/47

REVENUE ACCOUNT	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
	1 - 5	6-10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income						
Dwelling Rents	(460,856)	(515,529)	(586,552)	(655,261)	(733,554)	(825,264)
Other Rents	(4,271)	(4,714)	(5,425)	(6,246)	(7,198)	(8,355)
Service Charges	(32,135)	(35,391)	(37,529)	(39,939)	(42,659)	(45,725)
	(497,262)	(555,634)	(629,506)	(701,446)	(783,411)	(879,344)
Expenditure						
Management and Maintenance (net of retained surpluses)	243,374	266,033	293,677	323,267	358,092	395,547
Depreciation and provision for redemption of debt	178,573	207,359	267,963	306,426	361,610	433,344
Net Financing Costs	75,315	82,242	67,867	71,753	63,710	50,454
	497,262	555,634	629,506	701,446	783,411	879,344
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix A1

This report is PUBLIC –
[NOT PROTECTED]

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	Years 1 - 5 £000	Years 6-10 £000	Years 11 - 15 £000	Years 16 - 20 £000	Years 21 - 25 £000	Years 26 - 30 £000
Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure	256,557	155,750	290,218	292,433	355,216	346,545
Financing						
Major Repairs Reserve	(109,984)	(108,478)	(106,897)	(105,236)	(103,415)	(102,401)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(21,172)	(15,291)	(15,291)	(15,291)	(15,291)	(15,291)
Borrowing	(125,402)	(31,982)	(168,030)	(171,907)	(236,510)	(228,853)
	(256,557)	(155,750)	(290,218)	(292,433)	(355,216)	(346,545)
Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-

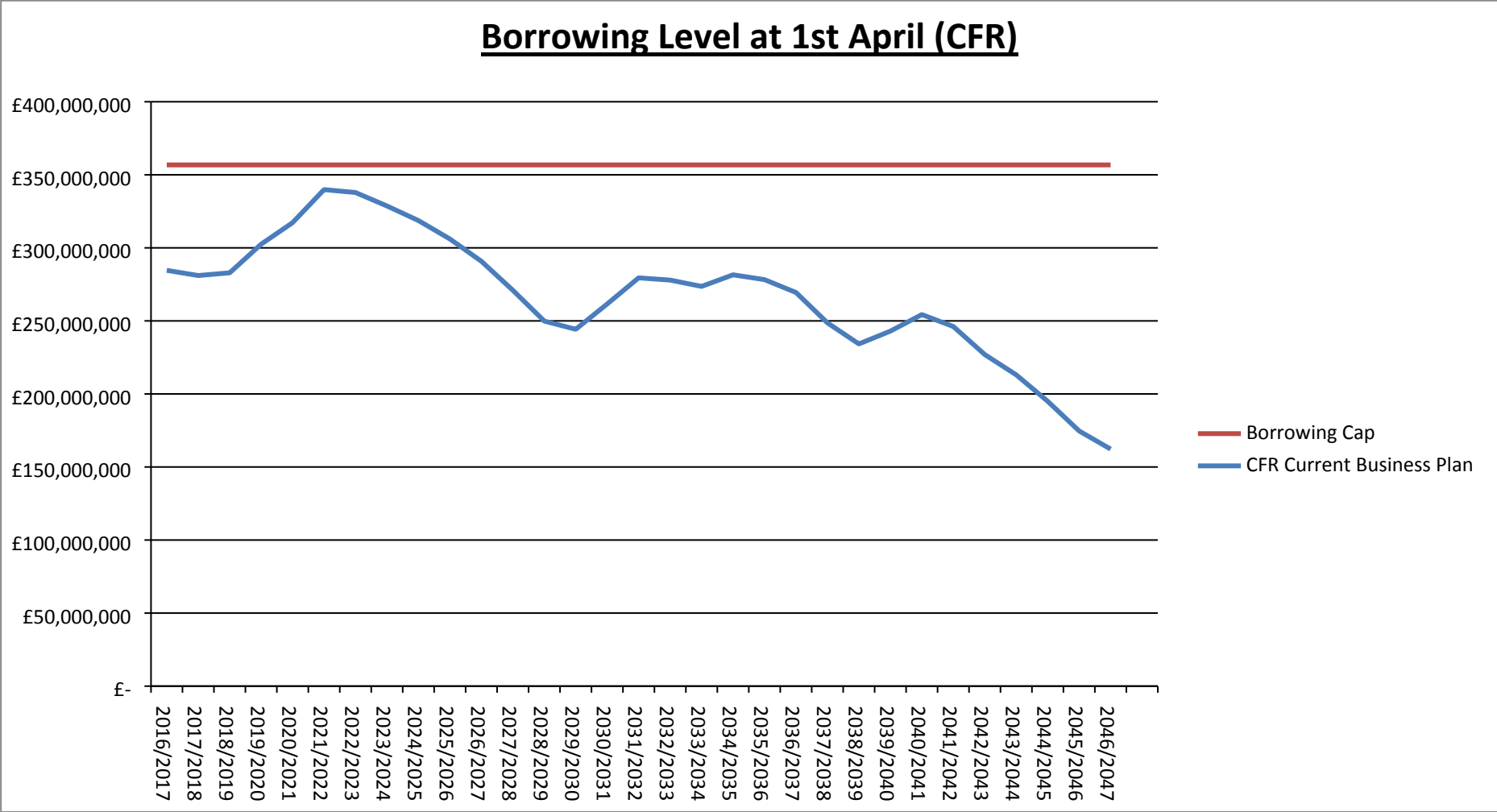
Appendix A1

This report is PUBLIC –
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CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	Years 1 - 5 £000	Years 6-10 £000	Years 11 - 15 £000	Years 16 - 20 £000	Years 21 - 25 £000	Years 26 - 30 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	281,055	337,867	270,968	277,934	248,650	226,965
Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing	125,402	31,982	168,030	171,907	236,510	228,853
Provision for Redemption of Debt	(68,589)	(98,881)	(161,065)	(201,190)	(258,195)	(330,942)
Net Movement in Capital Financing Requirement	337,867	270,968	277,934	248,650	226,965	124,876
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	337,867	270,968	277,934	248,650	226,965	124,876
Borrowing Cap	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770
Borrowing Headroom	18,903	85,802	78,836	108,120	129,805	231,894

This report is PUBLIC –
[NOT PROTECTED]

Forecast capital expenditure and borrowing curve 2016/17 to 2046/47 after implementing recommendations of this report



Appendix A3

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[NOT PROTECTED]

Medium term business plan

REVENUE ACCOUNT	2016/17 Estimate £000	2017/18 Budget £000	2018/19 Forecast £000	2019/20 Forecast £000	2020/21 Forecast £000
Income					
Dwelling Rents	(93,140)	(91,261)	(90,400)	(91,666)	(92,562)
Other Rents	(870)	(915)	(827)	(819)	(843)
Service Charges	(5,257)	(5,656)	(6,117)	(6,799)	(6,745)
	(99,267)	(97,832)	(97,344)	(99,284)	(100,150)
Expenditure					
Bushbury Hill EMB	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,286
New Park Village TMO	375	375	375	375	383
Springfield Horseshoe TMO	353	353	353	353	360
Dovecotes TMO	1,090	1,091	1,091	1,091	1,113
Housing Support	1,258	1,433	1,472	1,492	1,520
Pension contributions	2,373	2,388	2,443	2,504	2,557
SLA/Recharges	1,032	1,078	1,105	1,128	1,151
Depreciation	22,171	22,113	22,056	21,997	21,939
Net Financing Costs	10,939	10,966	14,465	15,723	16,492
Provision for Bad debts	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
	80,833	81,039	84,602	85,905	87,535
Surplus/deficit for the year	(18,434)	(16,793)	(12,741)	(13,378)	(12,615)
Provision for the redemption of debt	18,434	16,793	12,741	13,378	12,615
Balance	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix A3

This report is PUBLIC –
[NOT PROTECTED]

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
	Estimate £000	Budget £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
Expenditure					
Capital Expenditure	43,052	47,977	59,158	53,197	60,223
	43,052	47,977	59,158	53,197	60,223
Financing					
Major Repairs Reserve	(22,272)	(22,113)	(22,056)	(21,997)	(21,939)
Grants, Contributions and Receipts	(5,899)	(7,223)	(4,774)	(3,058)	(3,058)
Borrowing	(14,881)	(18,640)	(32,328)	(28,142)	(35,227)
	(43,052)	(47,977)	(59,158)	(53,197)	(60,223)
Balance	-	-	-	-	-

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	2016/17 Estimate £000	2017/18 Budget £000	2018/19 Forecast £000	2019/20 Forecast £000	2020/21 Forecast £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	284,608	281,055	282,902	302,489	317,253
Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing	14,881	18,640	32,328	28,142	35,227
Provision for Redemption of Debt	(18,434)	(16,793)	(12,741)	(13,378)	(12,615)
Net Movement in Capital Financing Requirement	(3,554)	1,847	19,587	14,764	22,612
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	281,055	282,902	302,489	317,253	339,865
Borrowing Cap	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770
Borrowing Headroom	75,715	73,868	54,281	39,517	16,905

Appendix A4

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Capital Programme

	Forecast 2016/17 £000	Forecast 2017/18 £000	Forecast 2018/19 £000	Forecast 2019/20 £000	Forecast 2020/21 £000	Total £000
New Build Programme						
Tap Works site	784	2,697				3,481
Care and Support Specialised Housing 1	1,426	661	20			2,107
Care and Support Specialised Housing 2	323	880				1,203
Tower and Fort Works	12	1,758	230			2,000
Strategic Construction Partnership Phase 1	400					400
Strategic Construction Partnership Phase 2	1,933	1,025				2,958
Starter Homes Project	440					440
Small Sites 3			4,000			4,000
Small Sites 4				4,000		4,000
Commercial Conversions	465					465
Burton Crescent		2,592	2,592			5,184
Heath Town Phase 1			2,640			2,640
Heath Town Phase 3				7,440	2,520	9,960
WVL units - Danesmore		1,248				1,248
WVL units - Ettingshall and Sweetbriar Road		904				904
WVL units - Proud's Lane			2,156			2,156
WVL units - Wednesfield			3,112	3,112	3,112	9,336
WVL units - Former Residential Care Home sites			2,748			2,748
St Luke's School				2,208		2,208
Wednesfield Primary			4,736			4,736
Northicote					6,480	6,480
New Build Programme					15,000	15,000
New Build Programme Total	5,783	11,765	22,234	16,760	27,112	83,654
Estate Remodelling						
Heath Town Total	2,683	2,100				4,783
Adaptations for People with Disabilities						
Disabled Adaptations Total	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000

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Major Stock Condition Improvements						
Low Hill Residential Repairs Total	862					862
Decent Homes Stock Condition						
Merridale Court	2,293	2,081	0	0	0	4,374
Refurbishment of Voids	2,181	2,374	2,378	2,383	2,404	11,720
External Improvement Programme	1,650	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	7,050
Boiler Replacement Programme	775	675	675	675	675	3,475
Internal Improvement Programme	1,634	1,583	1,850	2,118	2,671	9,856
Heath Town Follow on works	5,659	0	0	0	0	5,659
Heath Town - Refurb of Retained Properties	6,714	10,024	9,778	9,532	5,877	41,925
New Park Village maisonettes	56	2,216	5,328	3,559	0	11,159
Hickman High Rise	374	0	0	0	0	374
High Rise M&E	345	2,005	1,903	1,853	2,778	8,884
Sustainable Estates Programme	639	844	1,268	1,589	2,137	6,477
Non Trad Surveys	259	105	106	106	106	682
Decent Homes Stock Condition Total	22,579	23,257	24,636	23,165	17,998	111,635
Other Stock Condition Improvements						
Structural Works	1,037	981	982	986	986	4,972
Lift and Disability Discrimination Act Improvements - High Rise	534	645	671	673	673	3,196
Fire Safety Improvements - High Rise	746	978	980	981	989	4,674
Roofing Refurbishment Programme	4,814	4,273	4,070	4,078	4,114	21,349
Energy Efficiency Works	1,121	0	0	0	0	1,121
Door Entry Security Programme	363	369	370	371	371	1,844
Other Stock Condition Improvements Total	8,615	7,246	7,073	7,089	7,133	37,156
Other Improvements to the Public Realm						
Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme Total	200	200	200	200	200	1,000
Service Enhancements and Miscellaneous						
Right to Buy Sale Admin	30	30	30	30	30	150
Wolverhampton Homes Capitalised Salaries	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
City Council Capitalised Salaries	300	300	300	300	300	1,500
Contingency		1,079	2,685	3,653	5,450	12,867
Service Enhancements and Miscellaneous Total	1,330	2,409	4,015	4,983	6,780	19,517
GRAND TOTAL	43,052	47,977	59,158	53,197	60,223	263,607

Appendix B1

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Non-dwelling rents

Garage rents

1. The table below sets out recommended garage rents to take effect from 3 April 2017. It is recommended that there is no increase in the basic rent (before VAT).
2. Under VAT rules, garages that are let along with a dwelling do not attract VAT, whereas those that are let separately do. Furthermore, exemption from VAT only extends as far as two garages per tenant/leaseholder. Therefore there are three different levels of garage rents

	Rent per week 2016/17 (excl VAT)	% increase 2017/18	Rent per week 2017/18 (excl VAT)	Rent per week 2017/18 (incl VAT)
Dwelling tenants and leaseholders (No VAT)	£4.59	No change	£4.59	
Dwelling tenants and leaseholders – three or more garages (VAT)	£4.59	No change	£4.59	£5.51
Privately let garages	£6.58	No change	£6.58	£7.90

Appendix B2

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Service charges

Service Charge	Services funded	Rationale for charge	Charge paid per week 2015/16	Proposed change	Charge paid per week 2016/17
Communal Facilities	Communal facilities in former sheltered schemes	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£3.00	No change	£3.00
8 hour concierge support	8 hour on site concierge support without remote CCTV and door entry	Increase to ensure cost of service is fully recovered	£8.52	No change	£8.52
Concierge mandatory only	Essential caretaking duties	Increase to ensure cost of service is fully recovered	£5.57	No change	£5.57
Concierge mandatory plus remote CCTV and door entry	Essential caretaking duties and remote CCTV and door entry	Increase to ensure cost of service is fully recovered	£9.81	No change	£9.81
Concierge mandatory plus remote CCTV and door entry - phased	Essential caretaking duties and remote CCTV and door entry phased increase of £2pw each year until parity with rest of service	New service introduced in 2013, phased increase charge of £2pw each year but only £1.81 increase required in 2017	£8.00	£1.81 per week	£9.81
Communal cleaning	Cleaning services in communal areas in certain properties	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£3.24	No change	£3.24
Digital TV	Installation and maintenance of the wiring required to convey digital TV signals to certain high rise blocks	Cost of service is fully covered by current charge	£0.64	No change	£0.64
Fencing	Replacement of boundary fencing delivered by Wolverhampton Homes. All funds raised by this charge are ring-fenced to replacement fencing	Sufficient income raised to fund fencing programme	£2.00	No change	£2.00

Appendix B2

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Service Charges – Heating

Service Charge	Services funded	Rationale for charge	Charge paid per week 2015/16	Proposed change	Charge paid per week 2016/17
District Heating maintenance	Maintenance of boilers and district heating at Heath Town	Cost of service was fully covered by current charge but extended to include Hickman Estate reduces individual cost	£6.20	Reduction	£4.50
District Heating maintenance	Maintenance of boilers and district heating at Hickman Estate	Individual heating charge was not replaced after installation of district heating	£2.50	Increase to cover boilerhouse costs	£4.50
District Heating Usage (Heath Town)	Provision of heating and hot water at Heath Town Estate	Remove and replace with “pay for what you use” metering based upon new kilowatt per hour rate	£4.64 - £21.05	Remove and replace	5.8p per kw/h
District Heating Usage (Lincoln and Tremont)	Provision of heating and hot water at Lincoln House, Tremont House and Wednesfield Road, Heath Town	Remove and replace with “pay for what you use” metering based upon new kilowatt per hour rate	£6.77 - £9.04	Remove and replace	4.9p per kw/h
District Heating Usage (Hickman Estate)	Provision of heating and hot water at Wodensfield and William Bentley Courts	Cost of full recovery of fuel costs based upon current metered usage	8.4p per kw/h	No change	8.4p per kw/h
Central Heating – Gas	Servicing, maintenance and replacement of gas central heating systems	Current charge only covers 50% of costs. Raise by 50p per week each year for next 4 years	£2.50	£0.50 per week increase	£3.00

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Central Heating - Electric	Servicing, maintenance and replacement of electric heating	Charge reducing to reflect actual costs of service	£1.00	No change	£1.00
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Appendix B3

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Hostels rents and charges

1. It is recommended that there are no increases this year to the costs of the hostels and temporary accommodation

Charge	2016/17 White House £pw	2015/16 Other* £pw
Gross Rent	£206.97	£131.65
Charges:		
- Support/Care	£58.09	£55.45
- Heating, lighting, water	£18.97	£18.97
Total minimum cash payable	£18.97	£18.97
Total maximum cash payable	£77.06	£74.42

*Properties at Ellerton Walk, Lathe Court and Heath Town

Housing Rents and Service Charges Consultation

12 October – 21 November 2016

1.0 Consultation methods

- 1.1 The Council led the consultation with tenants, stakeholders and managing agents. Established “Tenants Get Togethers” were utilised rather than hold separate meetings. This proved effective with 127 tenants in attendance compared with 16 tenants who attended the specific rents consultation meetings last year. The Bilston Get Together was streamed live on Wolverhampton Homes Facebook page.
- 1.2 Meetings were arranged with Wolverhampton Federation of Tenants Associations (WFTA) and each of the managing agents.
- 1.3 Tenants also received a newsletter delivered by Wolverhampton Homes explaining the proposals the Council was considering.
- 1.4 The council also consulted on two proposed changes to the way it manages rent accounts and letting voids.

2.0 Consultation Responses

- 2.1 Tenants will all see their rents reduce by 1% each year for the next four years and this was broadly welcomed. There was some discussion on the appropriateness of Service Charges but once more the need to raise specific charges for services not enjoyed by all tenants was generally accepted.
- 2.2 The proposal to change the day on which the Council lets its voids was welcomed with little dissent. Currently all new tenancies commence on the Monday following the property being ready. From April 2017 all new tenancies can start on any day of the week to reduce void times, increase rental income and protect properties from potential anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 The second proposal to alter the way the Council sets its weekly rent figure produced much more debate. Currently rent is calculated based upon 50 weekly payments per year, allowing tenants who pay weekly to have what are commonly referred to as “rent free weeks”. The proposal to change the weekly rent figure to a 52 week year does not affect those in receipt of Housing Benefit or those who pay monthly but will benefit those in receipt of Universal Credit going forward. Overall there was a small majority in favour of moving to a 52 week rent year.

3.0 Consultation conclusions

- 3.1 In general the Council’s approach to setting rents and service charges were acceptable. The proposals to continue to increase the numbers of council new build units was welcomed.

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- 3.2 The proposal to let properties from any day as soon as the void is ready for letting was overwhelmingly accepted and will be introduced from April 2017.
- 3.3 Due to the amount of debate the proposal to change from collecting rent from 50 weeks per year to 52 weeks per year it is recommended that this is deferred for at least another year to allow further discussion.

The Housing Revenue Account

1. Local authorities are required by the Local Government and Housing Act (1989) to maintain a ring-fenced revenue account containing expenditure and income relating to their housing landlord service. This is known as the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
2. Statute governs what may be charged and credited to the HRA, the underlying principle being that housing rents and service charges should only pay for the housing landlord service. In particular, it prevents cross subsidy of those income streams and others that the council receives, for example council tax. The main items which are shown in the HRA are:
 - Income from rents and lettings from dwellings and non-dwellings
 - Costs associated with maintaining the rental stock (but not improving it or the Decent Homes programme, which are capital budget items)
 - Costs and income associated with providing landlord services to tenants such as heating and concierge services
 - The net costs of providing Housing Support services including those to Homeless Families and Carelink as well as HRA feasibility work.
3. Authorities have a duty to prepare and make available to rent payers an annual budget for the HRA in advance of the year in question. The budget must identify how all planned expenditure is to be funded. This may include the use of retained surpluses from previous years, but the HRA must never go into an overall deficit.
4. In accordance with the council's financial procedure rules, the budget, rents and service charges must be approved by full council, which receives recommendations from the Cabinet.

Administration of the HRA at Wolverhampton

5. The Strategic Director of Housing has responsibility for the overall HRA budget, and administration:
 - The council's Housing function, which manages central costs and recharges with the General Fund in conjunction with strategic Finance, as well as specialist housing services such as Homelessness and warden-supported dwellings.
 - Wolverhampton Homes and the Tenant Management Organisations who manage the rent collection, day to day maintenance and in the case of Wolverhampton Homes, the programme for maintaining properties at decent homes standard.

HRA Subsidy and Self-financing

6. Until April 2012, one of the key factors in the budget preparation process was the Government's annual HRA subsidy determination. HRA subsidy was a housing resource redistribution system administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Authorities either paid into or received money from a national pool, based on a formula that assessed their assumed need to spend and assumed income.
7. HRA subsidy was complex and difficult to predict, but had significant impacts on the funds available to an authority's HRA, which made it central to the budget process.

8. With effect from 1 April 2012, HRA subsidy was abolished. Instead of annual determinations, authorities paid or received a one-off settlement at the end of March 2012. This settlement was calculated as the net present value of forecast subsidy payments or receipts over the next 30 years. The final HRA subsidy payment was made in 2012/13.
9. As part of the self-financing process the government imposed a debt cap on the HRA, this being the higher of the Subsidy Capital Financing Requirement and the self-financing valuation. For Wolverhampton this means a debt cap of £356,770,000 which cannot be breached without approval from central government.

Service Charges

10. Service charges are intended to pay for the receipt of services over and above the provision of a standard dwelling, and not provided to all tenants. They should meet the full cost of providing the service in question, but never exceed it.

HRA Contingency Reserve

11. The contingency reserve is set aside for emergencies and other unforeseen expenditure, and is the minimum level below which the council does not allow its reserves to fall when preparing budgets and medium term forecasts. On 25 February 2012, the council approved the setting of the contingency reserve at 5% of gross HRA turnover (rounded to the nearest million pounds).

Appendix E

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Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
1	Government Legislation	There are changes to Government policy that have in year service and budget impact.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	4	5	20	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. Close monitoring of developing national position and reporting to Members. 	Director of Finance	Quarterly
Page 36	Income and Funding	Right to Buy sales are higher than forecast.	Less revenue will be received over the life of the plan than has been forecast.	3	4	12	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimates of the level of Right to Buy sales are used in forecasting. Review impact of new government policies Weekly monitoring of sales 	Director of Finance	Monthly
	Income and Funding	Inflation rates are lower than budgeted for.	Rents cannot be raised as much as has been forecast.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimates of inflation rates are used in forecasting. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
	Income and Funding	General interest rates are higher than forecast.	If interest rates are higher than forecast there will be greater interest payments.	2	5	10	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent estimate of interest rates are used in forecasting. The latest forecasts from the OBR are used. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
5	Income and Funding	Higher than anticipated bad debts.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	3	3	9	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust debt collection and recovery mechanisms in place. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. Monitor effect of Universal Credit. 	Strategic Director of Housing	Monthly
6	Financial and Budget Management	Ineffective budget management.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Councillors. 	Director of Finance	Monthly

Appendix E

This report is PUBLIC –
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Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
7	Financial and Budget Management	The 30 year asset management plan is inaccurate.	Capital expenditure is not budgeted correctly.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close interrogation of information generated from asset management systems. 	Strategic Director of Housing	Monthly
8	Financial and Budget Management	Treasury Management Activity, including increases in the cost of borrowing (e.g. LOBO loans being called) and/or reductions in the return on investments.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust Treasury Management Strategy. Established and experienced Treasury Management function. Proactive approach to the management of the council's cash flow, on a daily basis, including seeking opportunities to take advantage of borrowing opportunities when interest rates are favourable and seeking to maximise returns on investment whilst effectively managing the risk associated with those investments. External treasury management advisors who provide a proactive and timely service and advice. 	Director of Finance	Daily
9	Financial and Budget Management	Loss of ICT facilities, e.g. due to failure of systems and/or disaster recovery arrangements or key personnel	Lack of robust financial information on which to monitor budgets, leading to in-year budget deficit requiring savings to be identified or the use of Housing Revenue Account balances	2	4	8	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT disaster recovery project and arrangements. 	Head of ICT	Monthly

Appendix E

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Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
10	Financial and Budget Management	The HRA borrowing cap preventing the council from carrying out essential capital works.	Inability to borrow to fund capital projects results in delays or cancellations.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close monitoring of capital spend requirements and borrowing limits. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
11	Income and Funding	Reduction to other income.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	3	6	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the 2017/18 budget process income budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
12	Income and Funding	Stock Transfer without corresponding debt write off	Attributable debt remains without stock which provides income to repay this debt.	1	3	3	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council continues to monitor the progress of the transfer application 	Strategic Director of Housing	Monthly

Appendix E

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Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (PxI)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
13	Third Parties	Third parties and suppliers / contractors cease to trade or withdraw from the market.	Short term expensive solutions may be necessary. Requirements to undertake tender exercise. Increased on-going cost due to reduced competition. Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	4	4	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departments using external service suppliers work closely with them and are kept abreast of their service and business situation. At worst this gives the council notice of emerging problems. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. SCP uses 2 different contractors. 	Budget Holders	Monthly
14	Income and Funding	Lower than anticipated levels of capital funding through receipts and grants.	Capital schemes are cancelled or delayed or have to be funded from revenue budgets and/or prudential borrowing resulting in an over spend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	2	2	4	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capital programme is actively and closely managed and when so doing expenditure and income streams are continuously monitored. Quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly
15	Financial and Budget Management	Non pay inflation increase insufficient.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	2	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly

Appendix E

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Risk Number	Category	Risk- cause/event	Impact of Risk	Probability of Risk (P) Score 1-5	Impact of Risk (I) Score 1-5	Score (Pxl)	Red (R) Amber (A) Green (G)	Risk Control Measures	Owner	Review Period
16	Service Demands	Increased demand for services including the impact of social and demographic pressures on demand for services.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of housing revenue account balance.	1	2	2	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the 2017/18 budget process budgets were reviewed and revised accordingly taking account of known and anticipated increases in demand. Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Budget Holders	Monthly
10	Financial and Budget Management	Pay award greater than budgeted.	Overspend against budget requiring either in year savings or use of Housing Revenue Account balance.	1	1	1	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring at service level and quarterly monitoring to Members. 	Director of Finance	Monthly

Meeting of the City Council

1 February 2017

Report title	Municipal Calendar of Meetings	
Referring body	Special Advisory Group, 13 January 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Roger Lawrence	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr	Head of Governance
	Tel	01902 550105
	Email	colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Special Advisory Group 13 January 2017	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to agree the following:

1. That the attached City of Wolverhampton Council Calendar of Meetings for 2017-2018 be agreed.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider a proposed timetable for Council and committee meetings for the next Council Year (2017-2018).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Full Council Meeting Procedure Rules set out the responsibility of Council to approve a programme of Ordinary meetings of the Full Council, the Cabinet, the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels and Regulatory or other committees for the year. Full Council is asked to agree the meeting dates for all meetings to enable the programme to be co-ordinated.
- 2.2 The proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2017-2018, attached as an Appendix, was drafted in consultation with the responsible officers for each body and addresses issues raised by Members and officers in relation to the current year's timetable. It was considered by the Special Advisory Group (SAG) on 13 January 2017 who resolved to recommend it to Full Council for approval. In accordance with a further resolution of SAG, the Group Leaders invited comments from their Members in advance of the publication of this report.
- 2.3 Amendments to the programme of meetings can be agreed during the year by the relevant bodies or by councillors and officers as set out in the Council's Constitution.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report. [GE/16012017/P]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. [RB/04012017/C]

5.0 Equalities implications.

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6.0 Environmental implications.

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Human resources implications.

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications.

- 8.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

N/A

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		No. of meetings	Usual day and time	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	
Bank Holidays																	
Council and Executive	Council	8	Weds (5.45pm)	17 a		19 (6pm)		20		8	13	31		7 b & 28		16 a	
	Cabinet	7	Weds (5pm)		7	19 (3.30pm)		13	18	29			21 d		25		
	Cabinet (Resources) Panel	7	Tues (5pm)	23	27				3	14		16		20		8	
	Cabinet (Performance Management) Panel	4	Mon (5pm)		12				18			4			5		
	Executive Team (if required)	9	Mon (5pm)		26	17			11	16	27		15	26	19	23	
Scrutiny	Scrutiny Board	8	Tues (6pm)	30 d		4		5	10		5 c	9		6		1	
	Adults and Safer City	6	Tues (6pm)		13			19		7 c			6		10 d		
	Children, Young People and Families	5	Weds (6pm)		14				6		1 c		7		11 d		
	Confident, Capable Council	5	Weds (6pm)		21				27		22 c		14		18		
	Health	5	Thurs (2pm)	25		20			21		16 c		25		29		
	Stronger City Economy	6	Tues (6pm)		20				26		21 c			13		17	
	Vibrant and Sustainable City	5	Thurs (6pm)		29				28		23 c				1	26	
Pensions	Pensions Committee	4	Weds (10am)		21			6			6			28			
	Pensions Board	2	Tues (2pm)			4						23					

a Annual Council, 6pm

b Budget setting

c Scrutiny of the budget

d During school holidays

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		No. of meetings	Usual day and time	May 2017	Jun 2017	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	
Bank Holidays																	
Regulatory and oversight	Audit and Risk Committee	4	Mon (2pm)			3		18			11			12			
	Health and Wellbeing Board	5	Weds (12.30pm or 2pm)		28 (2pm)			20 (2pm)	18 (12.30 pm)			10 (time tbc)			11 d (time tbc)		
	Safeguarding Children Board	4	Weds (2pm)		21			27			6			28			
	Safeguarding Adults Board	4	Thurs (11am)			13			19				8			3	
	Children's Trust Board	4	Weds 9:30am		14			20			13			14			
	Planning Committee	6	Tues (2pm) (site visits 10am)	23		11			12		14		16		20		
	Licensing Committee	6	Weds (10am)		6	18			26		28		23		27		
	Licensing Sub-Committee (if required)	5	Tues (10am)		27					17		12		27		24	
	Standards Committee (as required)		Preferably Thurs (1.30pm)														
Page 46	Corporate Parenting Board	6	Thurs (5.30pm)	18		13		14		9		18		22			
	Community Cohesion Forum	3	Weds (6pm)			5				15				14			
	Equalities Advisory Group	4	Tue (10am)		20			12			5			13			
	Councillor Development and IT Advisory Group	4	Fri (9am)		9			15			8			9			
	Special Advisory Group (if required)	7	Fri (9am)			7		8	20	24		12	16	16			
	Sustainability Advisory Group (if required)	3	Thurs (5.30pm)			6					2			1			

Meeting of the City Council

1 February 2017

Report title	School Standards – current overview	
Referring body	Managing Director	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Claire Darke	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Claire Darke Education	
Accountable director	Julien Kramer, Education	
Originating service	School Standards	
Accountable employee(s)	Alex Jones Tel Email	Assistant Director –School Standards 01902 555275 alex.jones2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board 19 January 2017	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Scrutinise the details of the report on the current standards of schools and education outcomes across the City and comment on the scope and effectiveness of Wolverhampton Council's response in securing the highest possible standards across all Wolverhampton schools.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Council of the current standards of schools and education outcomes across the City.
- 1.2 The Council is invited to scrutinise the contents of the report and make any suggestions or recommendations that strengthen the council's ability to carry out its functions to monitor the performance of schools in its area and ensure that where improvements are necessary, these are carried out effectively and expeditiously.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The report is intended to give an overview of school performance and the work of the local authority in securing excellent outcomes across the City of Wolverhampton.

3.0 Current school Ofsted position (this includes both maintained schools and academies) as at end of Autumn Term 2016 (December 2016):

3.1 Outstanding Schools:

There are currently 15 schools judged to be outstanding in the City – this number needs to increase further if we are to raise capacity across Wolverhampton to support less successful schools to improve.

14 out of 15 of the outstanding schools are judged to continue to be strong and effective and are RAG rated as GREEN. 1 academy is RAG rated as AMBER due to recent changes in school leadership and concerns have been raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner who has responsibility for academy standards.

3.2 Good Schools:

There are currently 67 schools judged to be good in the City – this number is increasing and is set to rise further as there are several schools currently judged to be Requiring Improvement that will be at least Good when inspected.

52 out of the 67 schools are judged to continue to be strong and effective and are RAG rated as GREEN. 13 are RAG rated Amber (12 maintained and 1 academy) and are rated as such to ensure that they have the appropriate levels of support in place from the LA to prevent further decline from good – this does not indicate the need for more formal interventions at this stage and 2 maintained are RAG rated RED and are receiving a full package of support coordinated by the School Improvement Team.

3.3 Requires Improvement Schools:

There are currently just 15 schools judged to Require Improvement in the City.

6 out of the 15 are RAG rated as GREEN and are expected to be judged Good by Ofsted when reinspected. 3 are RAG rated as AMBER (2 maintained and 1 academy) and are rated as such to ensure that they have the appropriate levels of support in place from the LA to support them to become good as soon as possible – this does not indicate the

need for more formal interventions at this stage. 6 are RAG rated as RED (2 of which are academies and concerns have been raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner who has responsibility for academy standards and 4 are maintained and are receiving a full package of support coordinated by the School Improvement Team until their academy conversions are finalised).

3.4 **Unclassified Schools:**

There are currently 10 schools that are currently unclassified in the City (sponsored academy that has yet to be re-inspected by Ofsted so has no judgement).

3.5 **Current Ofsted Position of LA (December 2016):**

Good and Outstanding:

Primary 84% (from 81% in July 2016)

Secondary 75%

Special 100%

Nursery schools 100%

Primary & Secondary Combined: 82%

All schools 85% (from 83% in July 2016)

3.6 **End of Key Stage outcomes 2015/2016 Academic Year**

3.7 **Early Years**

For pupils at the end of reception year in 2016 there was a 2% increase in the percentage assessed as reaching a good level of development (to 62%). The gap between Wolverhampton's figures and national figures did however widen (last year's gap 5% this year's gap 7%). Wolverhampton's national position is 145th out of 152 Local Authorities compared to 134 in 2015.

One of the issues with assessment at the end of EYFS is that it is purely based on attainment and takes no account of the progress that children have made from entering school to the end of Reception – this is particularly significant in Wolverhampton as our children start school significantly below their expected levels for their age (being the 12th most deprived city in the country for childhood deprivation and poverty) and make considerable progress by the end of Reception year but not enough to bring the City back in line with national level in such a short period (only 1 year for those schools without a nursery).

The LA are working very hard with a number of initiatives to raise attainment in Early Years Foundation Stage – EYFS Leaders networks, Literacy Projects, moderation meetings, school improvement visits to the lowest performing schools, transition project from private nurseries (PVI's) and child-minders to schools.

3.8 **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 All schools (Inc. Academies):**

The 2016 key stage assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum which was introduced in 2014. New tests and interim frameworks for

teacher assessment have been introduced to reflect the revised curriculum. Results are no longer reported as levels, and each pupil now receives their test results (at Key Stage 2) as a scaled score and teacher assessments (at Key Stage 1) based on the standards in the interim framework. Because of the changes set out above, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years.

The expectations for pupils at the end of Key Stage have been raised. Given the differences in the curriculum and assessments, levels are not comparable with scaled scores or teacher assessment outcomes.

- 3.9 Key Stage 1 reading - 71% of pupils achieved the expected standard (or above) in reading compared to 74% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 116th out of 152 Local Authorities compared to 128th in 2015 (up 12 places nationally).** We are 3rd against our statistical neighbours and 4th in the region.
- 3.10 Key Stage 1 writing - 62% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in writing compared to 65% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 115th out of 152 Local Authorities compared to 144th in 2015 (up 29 places nationally).** We are 3rd against our statistical neighbours and 3rd in the region.
- 3.11 Key Stage 1 maths - 71% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in maths compared to 73% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 93rd out of 152 Local Authorities compared to 146th in 2015 (up 53 places nationally).** We are 2nd against our statistical neighbours and 3rd in the region.
- 3.12 **Overall, whilst it is true that we are still below national figures at Key Stage 1 we are making rapid progress to narrow the gap and the City is moving up the league tables considerably due to that. Further work will continue across the Key Stage to raise standards – including a comprehensive programme of, fully subsidised, training around reading and maths.**
- 3.13 Key Stage 2 reading, writing and maths combined (The percentage of pupils who achieved the expected standard or above in all of reading, writing and maths combined) - 53% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in reading, writing and maths combined which is in line with national. **Wolverhampton's national position is 79th out of 152 Local Authorities the same position as in 2015.** We are joint 1st against our statistical neighbours and 2nd in the region.
- 3.14 Key Stage 2 writing - 74% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in writing, the same as the national figure. **Wolverhampton's national position is 67th out of 152 Local Authorities up on the 2015 position which was 100th (up 23 places nationally).** We are 2nd against our statistical neighbours and 2nd in the region.
- 3.15 Key Stage 2 maths - 69% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in maths, compared to 70% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 79th out of 152 Local Authorities up on the 2015 position, which was 83rd (up 4 places nationally).** We are 2nd against our statistical neighbours and 2nd in the region.

3.16 Key Stage 2 reading - 63% of pupils reached the expected standard (or above) in reading, compared to 66% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 103rd out of 152 Local Authorities down on the 2015 position, which was 93rd.** We are 2nd against our statistical neighbours and 2nd in the region.

3.17 **Considering our low starting points at EYFS it is an achievement that by the end of Key Stage 2 the vast majority of our pupils reach age related expectations in all three subjects combined. We have made excellent progress in our writing standards this year moving up 23 places in the league tables and, while our maths and reading scores are still slightly below national, we are still performing well against our statistical and regional neighbours. Further work will continue across the Key Stage to raise standards – including a comprehensive programme of, fully subsidised, training around reading and maths**

3.18 **We are also the only authority in the region to have no primary schools below government threshold standards (above Solihull who have 2).**

3.19 **Key Stage 4**

A new secondary school accountability system has been implemented in 2016. The headline accountability measures for schools from 2016 are: Attainment 8, Progress 8, Attainment in English and Maths (A*- C), and English Baccalaureate (EBacc) entry and achievement.

Because of the changes set out above, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years.

In addition, only 5 of our 19 secondary schools are maintained by the Local Authority.

3.20 **Attainment 8** - measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English (double weighted if the combined English qualification, or both language and literature are taken), maths (double weighted), three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list.

47% of pupils achieved the attainment 8 (A8) standard compared to 48% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 127th out of 152 Local Authorities.** We are 5th against our statistical neighbours and 6th in the region.

3.21 **Progress 8** - aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4. It compares pupils' achievement – their Attainment 8 score – with the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), calculated using assessment results from the end of primary school. Progress 8 is a relative measure; therefore the national average Progress 8 score for mainstream schools is zero.

Average progress for Wolverhampton pupils between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 was -0.14 **Wolverhampton's national position is 114th out of 152 Local Authorities.** We are 7th against our statistical neighbours and 4th in the region.

- 3.22 **Attainment in English and maths A* - C (basics)** - This measure looks at the percentage of pupils achieving A*-C in both English and maths. In 2016, pupils could achieve the English component of this with A*-C in English language or literature. In 2015 pupils had to achieve an A*-C in English language, and have sat an English literature exam. The change means a higher proportion of pupils achieve the measure.

58% of pupils achieved an A* - C grade GCSE in both English and maths compared to 59% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 124th out of 152 Local Authorities.** We are 4th against our statistical neighbours and 4th in the region.

- 3.23 **English Baccalaureate (EBacc) entry and achievement** - The EBacc was first introduced into the performance tables in 2009/10. It allows people to see how many pupils get an A*-C or above in core academic subjects at Key Stage 4. The EBacc is made up of English, maths, science, a language, and history or geography. To count in the EBacc, qualifications must be on the English Baccalaureate list of qualifications. **Many of the schools in Wolverhampton do not teach a compliant EBacc curriculum as this does not meet the needs of local young people in the main.**

15% of pupils achieved the English Baccalaureate measure compared to 23% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 143rd out of 152 Local Authorities.** We are joint 6th against our statistical neighbours and 6th in the region.

- 3.24 **5 or more A* - C grade GCSE's including English and maths** - While this is no longer a DfE accountability measure for secondary schools, this is a measure most readily understood since it was used as one of the DfE threshold measures over a number of previous years.

52% of pupils achieved 5 or more A* - C grade GCSE's including English and maths compared to 53% nationally. **Wolverhampton's national position is 123rd out of 152 Local Authorities up on the 2015 position which was 127th (up 4 places nationally).** We are joint 4th against our statistical neighbours and 4th in the region.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The cost of implementation and monitoring of the Council's actions to challenge and support schools to improve their end Ofsted outcomes has been included in the approved revenue budget for the Schools Standards service. [MF/24012017/U]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Under Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 the Council has a duty to contribute to the development of the community by securing efficient primary and secondary education and promote high standards in the city.
- 5.2 Recent improvements in attainment and in the performance of schools suggest that the Council's duties are being discharged. [RB/23012017/D]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Some pupils and some schools face greater challenges in achieving educational success; there are therefore profound Equalities implications to the LA and to schools in ensuring that every child and young person achieves their full potential and every school provides good educational outcomes.
- 6.2 A coherent and effective strategy to support schools is in place and Ofsted regularly audit all of this work.

7.0 Environmental and Corporate landlord implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 Where the Headteacher, staff or governors require support or training there can be significant HR implications.
- 8.2 The wider social costs of educational underachievement or failure have been previously referred to.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report

10.0 Schedule of background papers

N/A

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Meeting of the City Council

1 February 2017

Report title	Questions to Cabinet Members	
Referring body/Person	Councillor Udey Singh, Councillor Paul Singh and Councillor Udey Singh	
Cabinet Members with lead responsibility	Councillor Claire Darke, Education Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, Governance Councillor John Reynolds, City Economy	
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 as follows:

1. Educational Attainment

Councillor Udey Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Education: -

“The Progress 8 measure was introduced by the Government to encourage schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4, and is based upon students’ progress across English, Mathematics, and six other subjects from a list which includes the English Baccalaureate range of subjects and other approved disciplines. Can the Cabinet Member advise Council of the number of academies and LEA maintained schools in Wolverhampton which score below or well below the national average scores when using the Progress 8 measure?”

2. Interim Senior Management Appointments

Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Governance: -

“Can the Cabinet Member advise Council on the number of interim appointees and those on fixed contracts holding senior management positions within the authority at the moment at Grade 9 or above (annual salary starting at £48,070)?”

3. Wolverhampton Mainline Railway Station – Traffic Issues

Councillor Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for City Economy: -

“In the light of various complaints regarding the new traffic flow system serving Wolverhampton Mainline Railway Station, can the Cabinet Member advise Council on what measures are being considered to solve problems of road safety and convenience arising from the width of the pavements adjacent to the new taxi ranks and other restrictions of space for traffic flow to the station, and can he indicate a timescale for when these issues are likely to be addressed?”