

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel

22 November 2016

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny Board and Panels

Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Jonathan Yardley (Con)

Labour

Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Philip Bateman
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is 3 Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

Contact Julia Cleary
Tel/Email 01902 555046 julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking>
Email democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 555043

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

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies |
| 2 | Declarations of interest |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting (Pages 5 - 8) |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To include an update on the Cultural and Visitor Economy covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to the Custard Factory - verbal update on key areas;• Verbal update on visitor information and footfall;• The Visitor Economy Strategy.] |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20 (Pages 9 - 14) |
| 6 | Skills and Employment Update and the Wolverhampton Workbox
[To receive an update in relation to skills and employment in the City.

The report will be sent to follow]. |
| 7 | Update on the Implications of Brexit
[To receive a briefing note on the implications of Brexit.

The briefing note will be sent to follow]. |

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before the Autumn Statement and emails were being exchanged regarding projects that could be coming after the Statement.

Wolverhampton currently had three projects that were agreed (the Black Country Gold Grant Fund, European Social Fund Impact Project and a European Development Fund Project) but others including the Bilston Urban Village Environmental Project and some possible low carbon projects could be affected.

Members considered page 6 of the minutes in relation to footfall in the City. Officers confirmed that these were only preliminary results and that a full breakdown could be provided to members in the coming weeks.

Members queried whether it would be possible to have an update on the potential shopping outlet that was coming to the area, Officers confirmed that the outlet would be in Cannock and that the project was currently seeking planning permission; an update would be provided to Members.

Resolved: (1) That a full breakdown of footfall in the City be provided to members as soon as practicable;
(2) That an update be provided to Members regarding the planning shopping outlet in Cannock.

5 **Visitor Economy Update**

A report was submitted requesting the Panel to note the information regarding Wolverhampton's Visitor Economy and the City of Wolverhampton Council's work to support its growth and development.

The Panel had received a report on 6 October 2015 providing an overview of activity to support the development of the visitor economy, this report provided an update on progress over the last year.

Officers highlighted the importance for the Council in considering working in different ways in order to continue to deliver a high quality and diverse visitor economy when savings in the region of £2.6 million had to be made.

Members considered the report and noted the improvement in visitor numbers to the Art Gallery and other major venues from 500,000 in 2003/2004 to 1 million now. Members did however express concern regarding the detail in the information that they were receiving and Officers confirmed that in the past a designated Officer had collated this information but that Officer Post no longer existed. Concerns were also raised as to the lack of information regarding what the private sector was doing and that without this information it was impossible to formulate a coherent visitor strategy. Officers stated that information such as how many hotels were in Wolverhampton was available and that this would be provided to Members after the meeting. Officers stated that the first focus had been to get a good figurative base and that now the job of drilling down into the figures could commence with help from a newly appointed Marketing and Tourism Officer. Officers confirmed that this information would be available for the next meeting of the Panel.

The Panel also considered the fact that Wolverhampton did not appear to have a unique selling point on a level with the Bull Ring in Birmingham or Camden Market or Cheshire Oaks. Officers stated that the City had the largest pop art collection in the country and that the Wolverhampton Wanderers Football team was very well known

along with Marstons Brewery. Members considered whether marketing in these areas could be looked at in the future especially given the fact that Wolverhampton was much easier to reach than other nearby Cities and that it was crucial that visitors were encouraged to stay in the City rather than go off to other neighbouring attractions. Officers stated that work was being done in the City to make it more attractive including the Westside Development and the development of the Mander Centre and the refurbishment of the Civic Halls and the Grand Theatre.

The suggestion was made by Members that the Council should also consider areas such as the National Trust and the Canal and River Trust or working with other partner authorities such as Dudley with the Black County Museum.

Officers stated that a website was currently being developed that would, for the first time have all of the attractions the City had to offer in one place, the site would be dedicated to visitors and would be City wide rather than just Council based and would cover areas such as local outdoor Shakespeare events and events in Tettenhall and Northcote. Members considered that this was a good step forward and that the Council needed to use the history of the City to help develop its future in partnership.

Resolved: (1) That detailed visitor details be provided to the next meeting.
(2) That Officers consider the history of the City when formulating the Strategy for its future.

6 **Scrutiny Skills and Employment Update**

The Panel received a briefing note updating it on skills and employment activities within Wolverhampton. The briefing note had previously been requested by Members and it was noted that even though there was still a high proportion of job seekers, that this number appeared to be reducing.

It was confirmed that key workers were now in place to help tackle the youth unemployment which attracted a significant fund of £5.7 million. Updates would be provided to the Panel as this work progressed.

The Panel considered Universal Credit and the fact that this was currently only available to single non householders in the area. A specific piece of work was being carried out regarding these claimants including information on the website in order to avoid any adverse impact for the City in relation to this area.

It was noted that there was still a high level of residents without qualifications but that this was improving and that the higher level qualifications were increasing but that there was still some distance to go to bring Wolverhampton in line with the rest of the West Midlands and Country.

Members expressed concern regarding the youth unemployment and officers confirmed that a specific piece of work was being carried out regarding this including a recent visit to Telford to see their 'Job Box'. It was thought that early intervention and guidance was crucial to help younger people onto the right path and Wolverhampton was developing a similar tool to the 'job box; that would help to achieve this. Members noted the added importance of following up on any younger people placed in employment especially as to whether they stayed after an initial 12 to 18 weeks, Officers confirmed that there were follow ups at 6 months but that

statistics but that statistics showed that only 50% moved into permanent employment.

Resolved: That the information be noted and received.

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel

22 November 2016

Report title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
Wards affected	All	
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		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback to Scrutiny Board for consolidation and onward response to Cabinet on the Draft Budget 2017/18, in particular those elements that are relevant to this Scrutiny Panel, including specifically:
 - a. the Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals summarised at Appendix A.
 - b. the Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions summarised at Appendix B.
2. Approve that the Scrutiny Panel response be finalised by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Panel and forwarded to Scrutiny Board for consideration.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Panel's feedback on the Draft Budget 2017/18 including the related Budget Reductions and Income Generation Proposals, Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions and underlying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumptions that was approved by Cabinet to proceed for formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process, as appropriate, on 19 October 2016.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 19 October 2016, the Cabinet considered the Draft Budget for 2017/18. Cabinet approved this as the basis for budget consultation and scrutiny over the forthcoming months.
- 2.2 The Cabinet report recommended that Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals amounting to £13.5 million in 2017/18 proceed to the formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process. The Proposals that fall within the scrutiny remit of this Panel are shown at Appendix A.
- 2.3 The Cabinet report further identified that £10.0 million of Financial Transaction and Base Budget Revisions be incorporated into the 2017/18 Draft Budget. The Revisions that fall within the scrutiny remit of this Panel are shown at Appendix B.
- 2.4 It is important to note that any budget reduction and income generation proposals approved as part of prior year budget setting processes have already been scrutinised and approved by Cabinet and are therefore, already included in the MTFS.
- 2.5 As detailed in the Cabinet report, the 2017/18 Draft Budget will be considered by Scrutiny Panels during the November/December round of meetings and the feedback from those meetings will be reported to Scrutiny Board on 13 December 2016, which will consolidate that feedback in a formal response to Cabinet on 18 January 2017. The feedback provided to Scrutiny Board will include questions asked by Panel members, alongside the responses received. Cabinet will take into account the feedback from Scrutiny Board when considering the final budget setting report in February 2017, for approval by Full Council in March 2017.
- 2.5 In order to limit the volume of paper used as part of the budget reporting process, the Cabinet report has not been appended to this covering report. Panel members are instead requested to bring their copy of the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20 report, which was circulated with the 19 October 2016 Cabinet agenda. Detail of all the Council's individual savings proposals, including the latest to be considered by Cabinet on 19 October 2016, can be found on the council's website at:
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/budgetsavings>

3.0 Proposals relating to the work of this Panel

- 3.1 Included in the Draft Budget strategy are budget reduction and income generation proposals and financial transaction and base budget revisions relating to the remit of this Panel. These are listed at Appendices A and B. The Panel is requested to provide and record its comments on these proposals, for submission to Scrutiny Board and then Cabinet.
- 3.2 In addition to commenting on these specific proposals, the Panel may also request additional information or clarification in relation to the budget and MTFs. Any such requests will be noted separately, either for consideration by the Panel at a future date, or for information to be forwarded to the Panel members concerned.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report, and in the report to Cabinet. [MH/11112016/P]

4.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The legal implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet. [TS/11112016/D]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 The equalities implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 The environmental implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 The human resources implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 – 2019/20, report to Cabinet, 19 October 2016

Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals by Cabinet Portfolio

City Economy

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
<p>Increased income generation from Cultural Services The Visitor Economy Service has a budget savings target of £200,000 in 2017/18. The proposal is for this target to be achieved through a more commercial approach to the Bantock House complex, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Bilston Craft Gallery and the Archives Service, in conjunction with a more flexible staffing structure. The new structure offers the ability for staff to work across multiple sites, 7 days a week, allowing for a reduction in operating costs, whilst still delivering the service. One of the main factors in this is that the peak seasons of sites such as Bantock are at different times to those of the main concert halls. In addition a more commercial approach to the marketing and offer at these facilities will generate additional income.</p>	(200)	-	-

Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions

City Economy

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Adjustment to assumptions regarding Business Rate growth base	(96)	(96)	(96)

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