

Cabinet

30 November 2016

Time 4.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Executive

Venue Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Roger Lawrence (Lab)

Vice-chair Cllr Peter Bilson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Paul Sweet

Quorum for this meeting is five Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

Contact Jaswinder Kaur
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 550320 or jaswinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)
[For approval]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting]

DECISION ITEMS (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- 5 **Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17** (Pages 9 - 40)
[To consider an update on the 2016/17 financial performance of the General Fund and HRA capital programmes and the revised forecast for 2016/17 as at quarter two of 2016/17]
- 6 **Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2016/17** (Pages 41 - 62)
[To consider an update on the treasury management activity for the second quarter of 2016/17 as part of the mid-year review]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 7 **Implementing the Devolution Agreement - Mayoral Combined Authority functions** (Pages 63 - 80)
[To consent to the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016.

Councillor Wendy Thompson as Shadow Leader will be in attendance for this Item.

Appendix A will be sent to follow].

- 8 **Tackling Youth Employment in the City**
[To consider a proposal on tackling youth employment in the city - TO FOLLOW]
- 9 **Outcome of Autism Consultation and Final Autism Strategy** (Pages 81 - 88)
[To consider the consultation on the draft Joint Autism Strategy and to seek approval to adopt the revised strategy]

- 10 **Review of Fostering Fees and Allowances Scheme** (Pages 89 - 96)
[To approve the proposed changes to the Fostering Fees and Allowances]
- 11 **Extensions/Alterations to Foster Carers own Properties** (Pages 97 - 100)
[To endorse the proposal on financial support for extensions or alterations to foster carers' homes]
- 12 **Improving Outcomes with the Early Years** (Pages 101 - 150)
[To seek approval to commence consultation on the draft Early Years Strategy]
- 13 **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

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

PART 2 - EXEMPT ITEMS, CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 14 **City of Wolverhampton College** (Pages 151 - 160)
[To approve the proposed package of financial support for the City of Wolverhampton College] Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Para (3)
- 15 **i54 Western Extension Update** (Pages 161 - 180)
[To consider progress on i54 and the western extension of i54] Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Para (3)

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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Roger Lawrence (Chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Paul Sweet

Employees

Keith Ireland	Managing Director
Mark Taylor	Director of Finance
Linda Sanders	Strategic Director of People
Ross Cook	Service Director – City Environment
Bill Hague	Service Manager School Places and Transport
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
There were no apologies for absence. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
No declarations of interest were made. |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting
Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 October 2016 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair. |
| 4 | Matters arising
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes of the previous meeting. |

5 **Final Decision Regarding Resource Base Provision at Bushbury Hill Primary School**

Councillor Claire Darke presented the outcomes of the initial consultation and formal consultation (representation) on the proposed formal removal of Bushbury Hill Primary School's resource base.

Bushbury Hill Primary School (located within the Fallings Park ward) was registered as a community primary school with resource base provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties. It was an improving school with strong leadership judged 'Good' by Ofsted. However in 2015 the School failed to obtain the government's Key Stage 2 Floor Standards and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, were below expectations.

In light of the challenges Bushbury Hill Primary School was facing it was recommended that a proactive approach be adopted and that the resource base was removed in order to allow the school to focus on continuing to improve standards.

The Council had not commissioned any resource base places within the school for the 2016/17 financial year and there are no children on the Placement Forward Planning List seeking a place at the school. No children would be displaced as a consequence of this proposal.

Councillor Claire Darke requested approval to implement the proposed prescribed alteration.

Resolved:

1. That in accordance with statutory guidance, the outcomes of Initial Consultation and Formal Consultation (Representation) on the proposed formal removal of Bushbury Hill Primary School's resource base be formally considered.
2. That the formal removal of the resource base provision at Bushbury Hill Primary School be approved.

6 **Revised Health and Safety Policy**

Councillor Milkinder Jaspal presented the updated Health and Safety Policy which had been updated to adopt the principles of best practice set out by the Health and Safety Executive's Framework HSG65. It clearly defines roles and responsibilities at all levels throughout the council and how health and safety would be managed in accordance with the recommended process of plan, do, check and act.

The Statement of Intent had been drafted jointly in the names of the Managing Director and the Leader and this set out clearly the commitment towards ensuring the health and safety of employees, customers and partners.

The Cabinet Member for Governance with responsibility for health and safety was identified as a member of the Strategic Health and Safety Board and invited to observe Board meetings and subsequent objectives and performance.

Councillor Milkinder Jaspal advised that following publication of the Cabinet report the Health and Safety Policy had been updated to clarify that the Cabinet Health and Safety Champion was the Cabinet Member for Governance and that the Human Resources officers section was updated to:

Human Resources:

- Provide management information on sickness absence and support directorates to identify absent trends and improvement plans
- Provision of occupational health service to comply with statutory requirements and support employee wellbeing
- Provide support and guidance to managers on management of attendance and employee welfare

Resolved:

That the revised Health and Safety Policy be approved.

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Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Mark Taylor	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 554410
	Email	mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	15 November 2016
	Council	14 December 2016
	Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	15 March 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. The Cabinet recommends that Council:
 - a) Approves to undertake borrowing of £30.0 million and pay a capital grant of the equivalent amount to the West Midlands Combined Authority – Land Remediation Fund. This borrowing is required until the powers of the West Midlands Combined Authority (CA) are revised to enable them to borrow for non-transport related purposes. The CA will in return pay a revenue grant to the Council to cover the borrowing costs of interest and minimum revenue provision (paragraph 4.4).
 - b) Approves the additional General Fund resources of £3.4 million identified for;
 - i. nine new projects totalling £1.9 million (paragraph 4.1).
 - ii. i54 Western Extension, a new project, of £1.5 million subject to Cabinet approving the exempt report of the same name also on the agenda (paragraph 4.5).

2. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Approve the General Fund virements totalling £6.5 million detailed at Appendix C for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £3.3 million (paragraph 3.12);
 - ii. new projects totalling £2.2 million (paragraph 4.2).
 - iii. i54 Western Extension, a new project, of £1.0 million subject to Cabinet approving the exempt report of the same name, also on the agenda, and Council approving the additional resources 14 December 2016 (paragraph 4.12).

- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to agree and execute the legal agreement between the Council and the CA covering the borrowing to be undertaken and the revenue grant to be received.

Recommendations for noting:

1. The Cabinet is asked to note:

- a) The General Fund expenditure position at quarter two of 2016/17 for existing projects stands at 33.9% of the approved capital budget.

- b) The General Fund forecast outturn for existing projects for 2016/17 stands at 83.2% of the approved capital budget.

- c) The HRA expenditure position at quarter two of 2016/17 for existing projects stands at 28.0% of the approved capital budget.

- d) The HRA forecast outturn position for existing projects for 2016/17 stands at 72.8% of the approved capital budget.

- e) This report incorporates four revenue budget reduction and income generation proposals which require capital resources and are subject to approval by Cabinet and Council in February/March 2017 as part of the Budget 2017/18 setting process. The inclusion of the four projects in this report is on the assumption that approval will be given and therefore, their progression is dependent on that decision. The names of the budget reduction and income generation proposals/projects are:
 - Waste & Recycling strategy - service transformation
 - Highways Management
 - Commercial Facilities - Northcote Farm
 - District Parking

If the budget reduction and income generation proposals are not approved, the capital programme will be reduced accordingly.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the 2016/17 financial performance of the General Fund and HRA capital programmes and the revised forecast for 2016/17 as at quarter two of 2016/17.
- 1.2 To recommend revisions to the current approved General Fund capital programme covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

2.0 Executive summary

- 2.1 At its meeting on 20 July 2016, Council approved a General Fund capital programme totalling £206.7 million for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21. Since then further reports submitted to Councillors have been approved to increase this amount by £58.9 million to £265.6 million. Of this, £134.2 million relates to the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.2 Table 1 below shows the approved General Fund budget compared with that proposed, along with the resources identified to finance the proposed change.

Table 1: Summary of the General Fund projects requiring approval

General Fund	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	Total £000
Budget						
Approved	134,178	84,462	18,352	8,944	19,691	265,627
Projects requiring approval:						
New projects	7,279	11,110	15,000	-	-	33,389
Projected	141,457	95,572	33,352	8,944	19,691	299,016
Financing						
Approved						
Internal resources	85,816	59,311	13,959	4,682	19,691	183,459
External resources	48,362	25,151	4,393	4,262	-	82,168
	134,178	84,462	18,352	8,944	19,691	265,627
Projects requiring approval						
Internal resources	6,632	10,830	15,000	-	-	32,462
External resources	647	280	-	-	-	927
	7,279	11,110	15,000	-	-	33,389
Projected						
Internal resources	92,448	70,141	28,959	4,682	19,691	215,921
External resources	49,009	25,431	4,393	4,262	-	83,095
Projected	141,457	95,572	33,352	8,944	19,691	299,016

- 2.3 This report recommends variations to the approved programme totalling an increase of £33.4 million bringing the total revised programme to £299.0 million.
- 2.4 Expenditure to the end of quarter two 2016/17 for existing projects totals £45.5 million. This represents 33.9% of the approved budget.

- 2.5 A forecast outturn for 2016/17 for existing projects totals £111.7 million; this represents 83.2% of the approved budget.
- 2.6 On 20 July 2016, Council approved a revised HRA capital programme totalling £198.8 million for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21. Of this £57.0 million relates to the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.7 Table 2 shows the approved budget for information only as there are no proposed changes.

Table 2: Summary of the HRA approved projects

Housing Revenue Account	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	Total £000
Budget						
Approved	57,005	57,812	32,278	29,360	22,301	198,756
Projected	57,005	57,812	32,278	29,360	22,301	198,756
Financing						
Approved						
Internal resources	55,612	57,602	32,278	29,360	22,301	197,153
External resources	1,393	210	-	-	-	1,603
	57,005	57,812	32,278	29,360	22,301	198,756
Projected						
Internal resources	55,612	57,602	32,278	29,360	22,301	197,153
External resources	1,393	210	-	-	-	1,603
Projected	57,005	57,812	32,278	29,360	22,301	198,756

- 2.8 Expenditure to the end of quarter two 2016/17 for existing projects totals £15.9 million. This represents 28.0% of the approved budget.
- 2.9 A forecast outturn for 2016/17 for existing projects totals £41.5 million; this represents 72.8% of the approved budget.
- 3.0 2016/17 existing projects**
- 3.1 Table 3 provides an analysis of capital expenditure to the end of quarter two compared to the approved budget for existing projects.

Table 3: Capital expenditure to the end of quarter two of 2016/17 for existing projects

Directorate	Approved budget	Expenditure to the end of quarter two	Expenditure as % of approved budget
	£000	£000	%
Corporate	42,359	10,211	24.1%
People	5,189	515	9.9%
Place	86,630	34,765	40.1%
Total General Fund	134,178	45,491	33.9%
Housing Revenue Account	57,005	15,934	28.0%
Total HRA	57,005	15,934	28.0%
Total Capital Programme	191,183	61,425	32.1%

- 3.2 General Fund expenditure to the end of quarter two stands at £45.5 million, against the approved budget of £134.2 million, which represents 33.9% (25.3% in 2015/16) of the approved budget.
- 3.3 HRA expenditure to the end of quarter two stands at £15.9 million, against the approved budget of £57.0 million, which represents 28.0% (30.1% in 2015/16) of the approved budget.
- 3.4 Table 4 provides an analysis of variations for existing projects between the approved capital budget and forecast outturn position for 2016/17.

Table 4: Analysis of variations between the approved capital budget and 2016/17 projected outturn for existing projects

Directorate	Approved budget	Forecast outturn	Forecast as % of approved budget	Variance forecast v approved over / (under)	Variance represented by:	
					Re-profiling	Increase / (decrease)
	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	£000
Corporate	42,359	30,917	73.0%	(11,442)	(11,091)	(351)
People	5,189	3,443	66.4%	(1,746)	(1,746)	-
Place	86,630	77,343	89.3%	(9,287)	(9,382)	95
Total General Fund	134,178	111,703	83.2%	(22,475)	(22,219)	(256)
Housing Revenue Account	57,005	41,518	72.8%	(15,487)	(15,559)	72
Total HRA	57,005	41,518	72.8%	(15,487)	(15,559)	72
Total Capital Programme	191,183	153,221	80.1%	(37,962)	(37,778)	(184)

- 3.5 As shown in Table 4, the latest financial monitoring information indicates that General Fund capital expenditure during 2016/17 will be lower than the approved budget by £22.5 million. This is analysed in Table 5 with the main variances for existing projects discussed below.

Table 5: Analysis of forecast expenditure for existing projects variance for 2016/17

General Fund		£000	
Existing projects			
Forecast slippage	(23,147)		This is simple re-profiling of budgeted projects to reflect new timing of events. There is no overall impact to the total capital budget. Further details can be found in Appendix A and is discussed in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.8.
Forecast acceleration	928		
Total re-profiling	(22,219)		
Forecast increase	95		This will be met by additional external resources.
Forecast decrease	(351)		This decrease in expenditure is to correspond to the reduction of capital receipts.
Total increase/(decrease)	(256)		Further details can be found in Appendix A and is discussed in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.12.
Total variance for 2016/17		(22,475)	

- 3.6 Of the £11.1 million re-profiling for the Corporate Directorate, a net £7.9 million was as a result of slippage and acceleration relating to the Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy. This is for the development of transformation projects funded by the capital receipts flexibility announced in the Autumn Statement 2015. This has a direct relationship to the availability of capital receipts and therefore, any changes in the timing or amount of receipts impacts upon this expenditure budget. There is further slippage of £2.0 million related to Devolved Formula Capital for which schools can spend their allocations over a three year period. An estimated spend for 2016/17 is based on average annual spend in recent years by individual schools.
- 3.7 There is re-profiling of £1.7 million for the People Directorate, the main items being slippage on the following Sports Investment Strategy projects; £694,000 relating to Barnhurst Land pitches and £268,000 relating to Synthetic Pitch at Our Lady & St Chad's School due to further consideration of building options on changing rooms which may require building consent; some £237,000 slippage due to lease negotiations at Bilbrook Football Club (these are now resolved and the building work has commenced); and the slippage of £250,000 for a Sexual Health project due to awaiting the business case from the provider.
- 3.8 The £9.4 million re-profiling for the Place Directorate incorporates slippage of £2.4 million for Vehicles (Procurement) due to the requirement of revised procurement arrangements; £2.1 million slippage for Site Remediation Farndale - Courtaulds – Investigation project which is due to the commencement of works being dependent upon on-going legal negotiations. A contract has now been awarded and the remediation works are beginning with a completion anticipated in 2017/18. Some £1.8 million slippage relates to Black Country Growth Deal - Civic Halls Improvements project due to delays in procurement process; slippage of £1.4 million on Bilston Urban Village - Remediation of site in readiness for development project is due to the programme revision in order to meet external funding requirements (awaiting decision on bid for European Funds). Finally,

slippage of £500,000 relates to Disabled Facilities Grant mainly due to the lack of staffing resource.

- 3.9 The projected forecast decrease of £256,000 shown in Table 5 for the General Fund is a net position which is discussed below.
- 3.10 There is a forecast increase of £95,000 relating to Broadband Vouchers (£85,000) linked to estimated demand levels and Integrated Transport – Vine Island/Wobaston Road (£10,000). Both of these forecasts will be funded by external resources and therefore there is no impact on council resources.
- 3.11 The forecast decrease of £351,000 relates to the Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy and is linked to availability of capital receipts as explained in paragraph 3.6.
- 3.12 Requests for budget virements between existing General Fund projects, totalling £3.3 million are detailed in Appendix C.
- 3.13 The latest financial monitoring information indicates that HRA capital expenditure during 2016/17 will be lower than the approved budget by £15.5 million. The majority of this, £15.6 million is due to re-profiling of existing projects which is discussed further below.
- 3.14 Slippage of £16.4 million is forecast for 2016/17 the main items being; £11.4 million for New Build Programme - Provision for Future Programmes, this is due re-profiling to reflect site availability and development work; £1.5 million relates to New Build - Tower and Fort Works, initial responses were higher than the approved budget so further work is being undertaken with the preferred bidder; some £1.2 million slippage relates to New Build - Tap Works site due to additional requirements for procurement documentation; finally, £1.1 million relates to Heath Town Redevelopment project where there have been delays in final specification and design of works.
- 3.15 There has also been acceleration of £862,000, the main element of this being £506,000 relating to Roofing Refurbishment Programme, 45 more roof replacements will be undertaken than planned in the current year.
- 3.16 The main item included in the forecast net overspend of £72,000 relates to Starter Homes Project of £50,000 due to site abnormalities. The £72,000 will be managed within the overall HRA capital programme.

4.0 New projects and virements

- 4.1 Table 6 provides an analysis of forecast outturn for the new projects requiring approvals, covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Table 6: Analysis of new projects requiring approval

Directorate	2016/17 - 2020/21		
	Forecast outturn	Additional resources required	Virements from existing projects
	£000	£000	£000
Corporate	30,540	30,000	540
People	285	12	273
Place	5,831	3,377	2,454
Total General Fund	36,656	33,389	3,267
Housing Revenue Account	-	-	-
Total HRA	-	-	-
Total Capital Programme	36,656	33,389	3,267

- 4.2 The new projects requiring approval are funded from a mixture of internal and external resources and virements of £3.3 million from the existing projects as detailed in Appendix C.
- 4.3 The main new projects requiring approval (see additional resources in table 6) are discussed below.
- 4.4 The Corporate Directorate figure of £30.0 million relates to the West Midlands Combined Authority – Land Remediation Fund. Due to restrictions on the Combined Authority (CA) they are unable to borrow for non-transport related purposes. Therefore it is proposed that until their powers are revised Wolverhampton will pay a capital grant to the CA to support the Land Remediation Fund. The CA will in return pay a revenue grant to Wolverhampton to cover the Council’s borrowing costs of interest and minimum revenue provision. Upon the CA having their powers revised the borrowing undertaken will be transferred to them.
- 4.5 Within the Place Directorate, £1.5 million relates to i54 Western Extension which is subject to Cabinet approving the exempt report of the same name also on the agenda for this meeting. Of this amount £1.0 million is a request for new council resources, the remaining £500,000 is from council resources which have been released from another project due to external contributions being secured.
- 4.6 The main remaining items for the Place Directorate are Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Tranches 1 & 2 of £400,000 to align with grant agreements; and Payment of grant – Bradley Arm Canal towpath improvements of £207,000 for improvement works to the canal towpath. Finally, there is an increase of £950,000 for the projects related to revenue budget reduction and income generation proposals which will be discussed below.

4.7 This report incorporates four revenue budget reduction and income generation proposals which require capital resources and are subject to approval by Cabinet and Council in February/March 2017 as part of the Budget 2017/18 setting process. The inclusion of the four projects in this report is on the assumption that approval will be given and therefore, their progression is dependent on that decision. The names of the budget reduction and income generation proposals/projects are:

- Waste & Recycling strategy - service transformation - £200,000 reduction in revenue budget
- Highways Management - £250,000 income generation
- Commercial Facilities - Northcote Farm - £100,000 income generation
- District Parking - £200,000 income generation

If the budget reduction and income generation proposals are not approved, the capital programme will be reduced accordingly. The proposals can be accessed via the links below:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10927&p=0>

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10917&p=0>

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10909&p=0>

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10900&p=0>

- 4.8 New projects created through virements from the existing projects can be found in Appendix C with the main items discussed below.
- 4.9 The main items for the Corporate Directorate relate to schools; £150,000 for Woodfield Junior on emergency drainage works; and £100,000 Contribution to Children's transformation project The Avenues/Barnhurst for relocation of the site at St Matthias school.
- 4.10 For the People Directorate £180,000 relates to Peace Green sport facilities for developing cricket and basketball provision within the city.
- 4.11 The Place Directorate virements include reprioritisation of carriageway maintenance works for Stafford Road (Bushbury Lane to Greenwood Road) of £1.2 million and Wednesfield High Street of £110,000; finally, £110,000 relating to Transport Structural Maintenance – Pothole works to enable works to commence.
- 4.12 There is a further virement of £1.0 million within the Place Directorate with regards to i54 Western Extension. Approval is being sought for the virement subject to Cabinet approving the exempt report of the same name, also on the agenda for this meeting, and Council approving the additional resources 14 December 2016.

5.0 Medium term capital programme

- 5.1 The current approved budgets will only be amended for those projects in this report which approval has explicitly been sought i.e. general forecasts will not be reflected.
- 5.2 Table 7 details the approved financing of the capital programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 and incorporates the requested approvals for projects included in this report.

Table 7: Approved and forecast capital financing 2016/17

2016/17 - 2020/21				
General Fund	Approved budget	Growth	Recommended budget	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	265,627	33,389	299,016	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	27,738	-	27,738	0.0%
Prudential borrowing	154,797	32,462	187,259	97.2%
Revenue contributions	924	-	924	0.0%
Reserves	-	-	-	0.0%
Subtotal	183,459	32,462	215,921	97.2%
External resources				
Supported borrowing	-	-	-	0.0%
Grants & contributions	82,168	927	83,095	2.8%
Subtotal	82,168	927	83,095	2.8%
Total General Fund	265,627	33,389	299,016	100.0%
2016/17 - 2020/21				
Housing Revenue Account	Approved budget	Growth	Recommended budget	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	198,756	-	198,756	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	22,937	-	22,937	11.5%
Prudential borrowing	64,873	-	64,873	32.6%
Revenue contributions	-	-	-	0.0%
Reserves	109,343	-	109,343	55.1%
Subtotal	197,153	-	197,153	99.2%
External resources				
Supported borrowing	-	-	-	0.0%
Grants & contributions	1,603	-	1,603	0.8%
Subtotal	1,603	-	1,603	0.8%
Total HRA	198,756	-	198,756	100.0%

6.0 Key budget risks

6.1 An analysis of the risks associated with the capital programme, along with the details of the risk control measures that are in place in order to manage and mitigate these risks as far as possible can be viewed online on the Council's website by following the link below:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/7046/Medium-Term-Capital-Programme>

6.2 The overall risk associated with the programme continues to be quantified as amber.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report. The revenue implications of the new projects seeking approval can be seen in the table below and can be contained within existing treasury management budgets.

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000
Forecast cumulative impact:					
interest	155	474	939	939	939
minimum revenue provision	-	138	387	741	774
	155	612	1,326	1,680	1,713
Forecast revenue grant from CA	(126)	(533)	(1,228)	(1,580)	(1,611)
Net revenue cumulative impact for General Fund	29	79	98	100	102

[SH/10112016/F]

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

8.2 The Local Government Act 2003 brought in the current regime for capital finance for local authorities. It reduced the level of central control over local authority borrowing and capital expenditure.

8.3 The Council is required to comply with statutory codes of practice including current Financial Procedure Rules and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and Treasury Management in Public Services.

8.4 The legal framework therefore places a greater responsibility on Cabinet Members to ensure properly managed borrowing and capital expenditure without the need for government consent.

8.5 The main principles of the framework are prudence, sustainability and affordability. These statutory requirements are taken into account when making recommendations about the revised medium term General Fund capital programme.

[Legal Code: TS/10112016/C]

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 Projects funded and delivered through the Council's capital programme typically have significant impact on the Council's property portfolio. Corporate landlord implications must be considered and included in relevant documents and reports when individual capital projects and programmes are being developed.

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a statutory duty to pay due regard to the impact of how it carries out its business on different groups of people. This is designed to help the Council identify the particular needs of different groups and reduce the likelihood of discrimination; the nine equality strands covered by the legislation are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Religion or Belief
- Race
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (this strand only applies to employment and not to service delivery).

These strands include everyone.

- 10.2 Cabinet Members should also be aware that under the Equality Act 2010, they must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty when making budget decisions. What this means in practice is that Cabinet Members must consciously think about the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision making process, the three aims are to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity by removing or minimising disadvantages, meet differing needs and encourage participation.
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

- 10.3 Consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by public bodies including:

- How they act as employers.
- How they design, deliver and evaluate services.
- How they commission and procure from others.

- 10.4 The Brown Principles, established as a result of a legal case concerning Post Offices closures in 2008, provide an important checklist when making decisions:

- Decision makers must be made aware of their duty to have due regard to the identified goals.
- Due regard must be fulfilled before and at the time that a particular decision is being considered, not afterwards.

- The duty must be exercised in substance, with rigour and with an open mind. It is not a question of ticking boxes.
- The duty is not delegable; it must be fulfilled by the organisation in question rather than through the use of an external body to do it to the organisation.
- The duty is a continuing one.
- It is good practice to keep an adequate record showing that it has considered the identified needs.

10.5 There is a range of individual projects delivered through the Council's capital programme that have significant impacts on specific groups and equality implications should be considered when individual capital schemes are being developed.

10.6 This requirement would also apply if there were to be any redirection of capital funding in year so as to ensure that the impact of any changes is considered.

11.0 Environmental implications

11.1 A wide range of projects delivered through the capital programme have significant environmental implications and are geared to promote improvements to the physical environment.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 Capital budget outturn 2015/16 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2016/17 and financial strategy - Report to Cabinet on 29 June 2016, Council on 20 July 2016.

12.2 Improving security at vulnerable, 'unauthorised encampment' sites across Wolverhampton – Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 13 September 2016.

12.3 WV Living Detailed Business Plan Phase 1 – Report to Cabinet on 14 September 2016.

12.4 Heath Park Phase 3 Arts Block – Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 4 October 2016.

12.5 Wolverhampton Interchange Programme – Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 1 November 2016.

12.6 Disposal of Properties at Langley Road, Whitburn Close, Vicarage Road and Warstones Drive, Wolverhampton – Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 1 November 2016.

12.7 WV Active Central Baths Gym – Individual Executive Decision Notice signed off on 04 November 2016.

12.8 i54 Western Extension Update – Report to Cabinet on 30 November 2016.

13.0 Schedule of appendices

Appendix	Title
A	Analysis of projected change in expenditure
B	Projects requiring approval
C	Virements

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

Corporate	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Financing			
		Re- profiling £000	Virements £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Corporate Contingency Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	269	-	269	-	-
Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy Change reflects a decreased capital receipt availability for the development of transformation projects funded by the capital receipts flexibility announced in the Autumn Statement 2015.	(8,228)	(7,877)	-	(351)	-
Future Works - System Implementation Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(4)	-	(4)	-	-
ICT Disaster Recovery Change reflects estimated underspend which will be slipped to 2017/18.	(437)	(437)	-	-	-
ICT Infrastructure Upgrades (ICT Main programme) Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(88)	-	(88)	-	-
ICT - Data Centres (ICT Main programme) Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(2)	-	(2)	-	-
ICT - Future Developments Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	140	-	140	-	-
Bert Williams Leisure Centre Change reflects a slippage due to the contract retention amount being still outstanding.	(11)	(11)	-	-	-
Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	124	-	124	-	-
Bert Williams Leisure Centre Enhancements Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	19	-	19	-	-
Central Baths Enhancements Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	42	-	42	-	-
Director of Education					
Schools Devolved Formula Capital Estimated spend is based on average annual spend in recent years by individual schools.	(2,000)	(2,000)	-	-	-
Infrastructure Abnormals/SLG/ELS Re-profiling is due to the delays in legal agreement with LEP.	(764)	(764)	-	-	-
BSF - ICT - St Peters Church of England School Re-profiling is due to the delays in legal agreement with LEP.	(75)	(75)	-	-	-
Asbestos Removal - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(93)	-	(93)	-	-
Boiler upgrades/replacement pipework/heaters - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(83)	-	(83)	-	-
Ashmore Park Nursery - replacement calorifier Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(3)	-	(3)	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects

Appendix A

Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Corporate (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Dovecotes Primary - replacement hot and cold water Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(4)	-	(4)	-	-
Long Knowle Primary - replacement pipework Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	27	-	27	-	-
Spring Vale Primary - replacement hot and cold water supply Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	12	-	12	-	-
St Andrew's Church of England Primary - replacement boiler plant and control panel Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(6)	-	(6)	-	-
Woodthorne Primary - replacement boiler plant and controls to Infants block Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(11)	-	(11)	-	-
Contingency for Emergency Works - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(36)	-	(36)	-	-
Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(264)	-	(264)	-	-
Villiers Primary - electrical mains & sub-mains Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(25)	-	(25)	-	-
Christ Church Junior - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	3	-	3	-	-
Goldthorn Park Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(3)	-	(3)	-	-
Lanesfield Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	2	-	2	-	-
Long Knowle Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(21)	-	(21)	-	-
Spring Vale Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	12	-	12	-	-
St Andrew's Church of England Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(6)	-	(6)	-	-
St Thomas Church of England Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(10)	-	(10)	-	-
West Park Primary - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	14	-	14	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects

Appendix A

Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Corporate (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling	Virements	Financing Internal resources	External resources
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Whitgreave Infants - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	2	-	2	-	-
Whitgreave Junior - electrical remedial works Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	2	-	2	-	-
Roof replacements and ceilings - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(48)	-	(48)	-	-
D'Eyncourt Primary - replacement roof covering Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	4	-	4	-	-
Stow Heath Primary - replacement roof to nursery Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	8	-	8	-	-
Whitgreave Junior - replacement roof covering Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(6)	-	(6)	-	-
Structural/demolition/external works/security - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(65)	-	(65)	-	-
Castlecroft Primary - resurface of playground and car park Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	65	-	65	-	-
Window upgrade - Provision for future schemes Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	10	-	10	-	-
Merridale Primary - replacement of windows and roof lights Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(10)	-	(10)	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Bushbury Hill Primary School Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(20)	-	(20)	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Eastfield Primary School Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(50)	-	(50)	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Stowlawn Primary School Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	20	-	20	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Westacre Primary School Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(20)	-	(20)	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - St Bartholomews CE Primary Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	150	-	150	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

Corporate (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re- profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(170)	-	(170)	-	-
Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Lanesfield Primary Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	200	-	200	-	-
Subtotal	(11,438)	(11,164)	77	(351)	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

People	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Financing			
		Re- profiling £000	Virements £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Co-Location Programme - Provision for future schemes					
Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(77)	-	(77)	-	-
Children's Transformation - Avenues					
Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(25)	-	(25)	-	-
Children's Transformation - Barnhurst					
Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	39	-	39	-	-
Childrens Social Care Homes					
Change reflects virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(450)	-	(450)	-	-
Sexual Health Premises					
Slippage is due to awaiting business case from the provider.	(250)	(250)	-	-	-
Sports Investment Strategy - Provision for future schemes					
Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(180)	-	(180)	-	-
Sports Investment Strategy - Barnhurst Land pitches					
Changing room building options need further consideration.This may also include gaining any required building consent.	(694)	(694)	-	-	-
Sports Investment Strategy - Synthetic Pitch at Our Lady & St Chad's School					
Changing room building options need further consideration.This may also include gaining any required building consent.	(268)	(268)	-	-	-
Sports Investment Strategy - Bilbrook Football Club					
The programme has been delayed due to lease negotiations. These are now resolved and the building work has commenced.	(237)	(237)	-	-	-
Community Hubs - Provision for future schemes					
Re-profiling is due to awaiting confirmation of final costings and retentions on current projects. The virement to approve as detailed in Appendix C.	(249)	(149)	(100)	-	-
Community Hubs - Wednesfield					
Awaiting confirmation of final costings and retentions on current projects.	(131)	(131)	-	-	-
Community Hubs - Low Hill					
Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	100	-	100	-	-
Capital Investment in Community Capacity Grant					
Balance of grant held, project yet to be identified.	(17)	(17)	-	-	-
Subtotal	(2,439)	(1,746)	(693)	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects

Appendix A

Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Place - Non Housing	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Corporate Asset Management - Avenues Family Centre re-wiring Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	(5)	-	(5)	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Bingley Enterprise relay room 5 floor Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(21)	-	(21)	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Art Gallery provide protection to main lantern light Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	25	-	25	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Wolverhampton Art Gallery - Makers Dozen resurfacing works Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	(25)	-	(25)	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Bradmore Community Centre - rewiring and electrical upgrade Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	(16)	-	(16)	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Barnhurst Family Day Centre Change reflects a virement to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(50)	-	(50)	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Avenues Family Centre re-wiring and upgrading of electrical systems Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	5	-	5	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Bushbury Crematorium re-wiring and upgrading of electrical Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	28	-	28	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Bradmore Community Centre rewiring Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	16	-	16	-	-
Corporate Asset Management - Hall Green Cemetery structural maintenance of paths/car parks Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	(28)	-	(28)	-	-
Disposals Programme (Non-Strategic) Cost estimates for 2016/17 have been updated.	(145)	(145)	-	-	-
Entertainments - Civic Hall Improvements Slippage in line with the revised timescales for the refurbishment of the Civic Halls.	(59)	(59)	-	-	-
Black Country Growth Deal - Civic Halls Improvements Re-profiling is due to delays in procurement process.	(1,756)	(1,756)	-	-	-
Broadband Vouchers Reflects current estimated demand levels and likely final claim.	85	-	-	-	85

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

Place - Non Housing (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Disposal of Heath Town Baths Awaiting outcome of developer selection process.	(79)	(79)	-	-	-
Targeted Disposals - Hoardings Re-phasing of programme in line with phasing of key regeneration sites.	(75)	(75)	-	-	-
Bilston Urban Village Developer progressing ahead of schedule delivering accelerated capital receipt.	155	155	-	-	-
Bilston Urban Village - Remediation of site in readiness for development Revised programme to meet external funding requirements. Includes virement from Transport regarding S106 contribution	(1,348)	(1,135)	(213)	-	-
Reallocation of Resources for Regeneration Priorities To be utilised when projects are developed.	(372)	-	(372)	-	-
Westside - Markets Re-location Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	130	-	130	-	-
Westside - Demolition of Heantun House Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(602)	-	(602)	-	-
Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Project Uptake from property owners has been slower than anticipated.	(193)	(193)	-	-	-
Southside - Ecology Survey 20/21 Cleveland Street Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	36	-	36	-	-
Vehicles (Procurement) Revised procurement arrangements required have lead to slippage on expenditure.	(2,374)	(2,374)	-	-	-
Transport Structural Maintenance - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(919)	-	(919)	-	-
Transport Structural Maintenance - Bath Road Carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(26)	-	(26)	-	-
Maintenance of classified roads - Birmingham New Road Carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	19	-	19	-	-
Maintenance of classified roads - Black Country Route Carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(138)	-	(138)	-	-
Transport Structural Maintenance - Bridgnorth Road Carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(182)	-	(182)	-	-
Transport Structural Maintenance - Bushbury Lane Carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(17)	-	(17)	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

Place - Non Housing (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Transport Structural Maintenance - Bushbury Road carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(200)	-	(200)	-	-
Maintenance of classified roads - Penn Road carriageway Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(125)	-	(125)	-	-
Maintenance of unclassified roads - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(85)	-	(85)	-	-
Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(95)	-	(95)	-	-
Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) Council Assets - Strengthening Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(37)	-	(37)	-	-
Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) - Compton Bridge Resurfacing Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(25)	-	(25)	-	-
Street Lighting (rolling programme) - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(350)	-	(350)	-	-
Bowman's Harbour Repository - Tech Investigation Monitoring of the equipment is ongoing and further structural improvements are required to ensure that remains legally compliant. Works are anticipated to be carried out and completed in 2017/18.	(102)	(102)	-	-	-
Site Remediation Farndale - Courtaulds - Investigation (non Defra) Commencement of works have been dependant upon ongoing legal negotiations. A contract has now been awarded, remediation works are beginning with an completion anticipated in 2017/18.	(2,065)	(2,065)	-	-	-
Parks Strategy & Open Spaces - Heath Town Park Final demolition costs awaited in order to ascertain the value of funding available to facilitate the open space	(72)	(72)	-	-	-
Parks Strategy & Open Spaces - Spring Road - (Taylor Road / Hilton PF) Slippage is due to the prioritisation of Ashmore Park and Castlecroft Avenue projects.	(56)	(56)	-	-	-
Parks Strategy & Open spaces - Greenway Playing Fields (Bradley Facilities) Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	(20)	-	(20)	-	-
Integrated Transport - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(288)	-	(288)	-	-
Integrated Transport - Ring Road St John's Phase 2 Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(76)	-	(76)	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects
Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Appendix A

Place - Non Housing (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Integrated Transport - UTC - Wireless Communications Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(50)	-	(50)	-	-
Safety Programme - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(278)	-	(278)	-	-
Local Safety Schemes - Wolverhampton Road East Crossing Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(70)	-	(70)	-	-
Active Travel Programme - Provision for future programmes Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	(60)	-	(60)	-	-
Managing Short Trips - Cycle Route i54 Link from Bushbury/Heath Town Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	50	-	50	-	-
Maintenance of unclassified roads (footways/carrageways) - Brooklands Parade and roads off (FW) Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	384	-	384	-	-
Maintenance of unclassified roads (footways/carrageways) - Newhampton Road East/Park Avenue Junction (CW) Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	31	-	31	-	-
Maintenance of classified roads - Waddensbrook Lane (Broad Lane South to Wednesfield Way) Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	141	-	141	-	-
Maintenance of classified roads - Warstones Road (Springhill Lane Junction) Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	62	-	62	-	-
Accessing Growth Fund - Pinfold Bridge, Wednesfield Road Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	125	-	125	-	-
City Centre Transport & Movement Enhancements Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	250	-	250	-	-
Safer Routes to School - Windmill Crescent - school gate parking Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	20	-	20	-	-
Integrated Transport - Traffic Signs replacement Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	30	-	30	-	-
Integrated Transport - New Cross area parking management Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	150	-	150	-	-

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects

Appendix A

Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Place - Non Housing (continued)	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Integrated Transport - Ring road & City centre signage Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	80	-	80	-	-
Integrated Transport - Alfred Squire Road/Neachells Lane traffic signals Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	120	-	120	-	-
Integrated Transport - Bus infrastructure improvements Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	30	-	30	-	-
Integrated Transport - Common Database software upgrade Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	25	-	25	-	-
Integrated Transport - Vine Island/Wobaston Road Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	20	-	10	-	10
Integrated Transport - Wobaston Road (inc 30mph) Change reflects virements to approve as detailed within Appendix C.	65	-	65	-	-
Subtotal	(10,402)	(7,956)	(2,541)	-	95

Place - Private Sector Housing	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Re-profiling £000	Virements £000	Financing Internal resources £000	External resources £000
Disabled Facilities Grants Slippage due to current lack of staffing resource.	(500)	(500)	-	-	-
Small Works Assistance - Provision for future programmes Lower project activity due to internal capacity issues which is being addressed.	(375)	(360)	(15)	-	-
Empty Properties Strategy Current reduced identification of empty properties.	(263)	(263)	-	-	-
Affordable Warmth Lower project activity due to internal capacity issues.	(300)	(300)	-	-	-
Showell road site refurbishment Change reflects virements to note as detailed within Appendix C.	15	-	15	-	-
Subtotal	(1,423)	(1,423)	-	-	-
Total projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)	(25,702)	(22,289)	(3,157)	(351)	95
Total projects with a variance less than 10% (+/-)	(40)	70	(110)	-	-
Grand total General Fund	(25,742)	(22,219)	(3,267)	(351)	95

Analysis of projected change in expenditure for existing projects

Appendix A

Projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)

Housing Revenue Account	Forecast change in expenditure £000	Financing			
		Re- profiling £000	Virements £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
New Build - Care and Support Specialised Housing 1 Slippage due to unexpected site issues.	(267)	(267)	-	-	-
New Build - Care and Support Specialised Housing 2 Slippage due to additional requirements for procurement documentation	(42)	(42)	-	-	-
New Build - Tap Works site Slippage due to additional requirements for procurement documentation	(1,216)	(1,216)	-	-	-
New Build - Strategic Construction Partnership Phase 2 Certain elements of this project took longer than anticipated resulting in slippage. For example parking issues required several redesigns of proposals before planning permission was granted. There was also a delay due to poor ground conditions and a mineshaft in close proximity to the site requiring specialist designs.	(567)	(567)	-	-	-
New Build - Tower and Fort Works Initial responses were higher than the approved budget so further work is being undertaken with the preferred bidder.	(1,528)	(1,528)	-	-	-
New Build Programme - Provision for future programmes Programme has been reprofiled to reflect site availability and development work.	(11,418)	(11,418)	-	-	-
Heath Town Redevelopment Delays in final specification and design of works.	(1,104)	(1,104)	-	-	-
Starter Homes Project Additional spend associated with site abnormalities.	50	-	-	50	-
Hickman High Rise Acceleration is due to the essential works to car park while contractors on site.	79	79	-	-	-
Roofing Refurbishment Programme 45 more roof replacements undertaken than planned in current year	506	506	-	-	-
Total projects with a variance greater than 10% (+/-)	(15,507)	(15,557)	-	50	-
Total projects with a variance less than 10% (+/-)	20	(2)	-	22	-
Grand total HRA	(15,487)	(15,559)	-	72	-

Projects requiring approval

Appendix B

New projects created from existing resources - virements	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
A full set of virements can be found in Appendix C	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund						
Children's Transformation - Bingley New scheme developed as part of the Children's Re-Design.	59	-	-	-	-	59
Children's Transformation - Graiseley New scheme developed as part of the Children's Re-Design.	34	-	-	-	-	34
Peace Green sport facilities To develop cricket and basketball provision within the city of Wolverhampton.	180	-	-	-	-	180
Warstones Primary - asbestos removal Relates to increased costs relating to the removal of asbestos discovered in the refurbishment of the school's boiler room. Work to be funded from the 2015-16 Asbestos removal budget.	15	-	-	-	-	15
Wodensfield Primary - asbestos removal Relates to increased costs relating to the removal of asbestos discovered in electrical works at the school. The work will be funded by using money from the balance of the 2015-16 asbestos removal programme.	9	-	-	-	-	9
Claregate Primary - asbestos removal Relates to increased costs relating to the removal of asbestos discovered in the refurbishment of the school's boiler room. To be funded from 2016-17 Asbestos removal budget.	13	-	-	-	-	13
Colton Hills Secondary - asbestos removal Safe removal of asbestos from the site of Colton Hills secondary school. Expenditure to come from the 2016-17 asbestos removal budget.	15	-	-	-	-	15
Penn Hall Special - asbestos removal Costs of removal of asbestos discovered in working at Penn Hall school. Work to be funded from the 2016-17 asbestos removal budget.	5	-	-	-	-	5
Graiseley Primary - asbestos removal Asbestos removal from Graiseley Primary school. To be funded from the 2016-17 asbestos removal budget	16	-	-	-	-	16
Stow Heath Primary - asbestos removal Asbestos removal from Stow Heath Primary school. To be funded from the 2016-17 asbestos removal budget	20	-	-	-	-	20
Wood End Primary - Priority School Building Programme Extra works connected with the Priority School Building programme. Will be funded by contributions from the 2016-17 Contingency for Emergency Works.	7	-	-	-	-	7
Colton Hills Secondary - installations of closed circuit tv To pay for the installation of Closed Circuit TV at Colton Hills. Funding will come from the Uncommitted Balance of the Capital Maintenance budget.	45	-	-	-	-	45
Grove Primary - electrical remedial works Remedial Rewiring and Electrical works following a routine inspection. The work is to be funded from 2016/17 contingency for emergency works	15	-	-	-	-	15
Kingston Centre - lift refurbishment Refurbishment of the lift due to Health and Safety concerns. To be funded from the 2016-17 contingency for emergency works.	10	-	-	-	-	10
Woodfield Junior - drainage works Emergency works to Woodfield Junior's drainage system. To be funded from the 2016-17 emergency work contingency fund.	150	-	-	-	-	150
Braybrook Centre - boiler replacement The school is having a Boiler Upgrade. This is to be funded from 2016/17 contingency for emergency works	60	-	-	-	-	60
Moreton Secondary - pitched roof structural works Work being carried out to the school's pitched roofs. This will be funded from the provision for future roof and ceiling projects.	40	-	-	-	-	40
Orchard Centre - toilet upgrade The school is having a toilet Upgrade. This is to be funded from provision for future toilet/cloakroom upgrades.	20	-	-	-	-	20
Contribution to Children's transformation project The Avenues/ Barnhurst To finance a historic commitment regarding relocation of site at St Matthias school. New sites relocated to The Avenues and Barnhurst as part of Children's Transformation project.	100	-	-	-	-	100

Projects requiring approval

Appendix B

New projects created from existing resources - virements (continued)	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	Total £000
Towers Outdoor Education Centre - window replacement New scheme due to reprioritisation of existing schemes	21	-	-	-	-	21
Transport Structural Maintenance - Stafford Road (Bushbury Lane to Greenwood Road) Reprioritisation of the carriageway maintenance programme has identified required highway maintenance works on the Stafford Road that will be accommodated within current grant allocations.	1,213	-	-	-	-	1,213
Transport Structural Maintenance - Wednesfield High Street Reprioritisation of the carriageway maintenance programme has identified required highway maintenance works on the Wednesfield High Street that will be accommodated within current grant allocations.	110	-	-	-	-	110
Transport Structural Maintenance - Pothole works Creation of this project enables external funding received for Pot Hole works to be separately identified for monitoring and data collection purposes and allow works to commence.	110	-	-	-	-	110
i54 Western Extension Project to enable feasibility and design work for the development and extension of i54. This is subject to an exempt report of the same name also on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting.	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Subtotal expenditure	3,267	-	-	-	-	3,267
Financing						
Internal resources	1,278	-	-	-	-	1,278
External resources	1,989	-	-	-	-	1,989
Subtotal financing	3,267	-	-	-	-	3,267

New projects created from additional resources	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	Total £000
General Fund						
WM Combined Authority - Land Remediation Fund Approval is sought to pay a capital grant to the Combined Authority to support the Land Remediation Fund until their powers to borrow for non-transport related purposes are revised.	5,000	10,000	15,000	-	-	30,000
i54 Western Extension Project to enable feasibility and design work for the development and extension of i54. This is subject to an exempt report of the same name also on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting.	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Tranches 1 & 2 Approval is sought for the inclusion of this project under the Access to Growth funded programme of works to align with grant agreements.	400	-	-	-	-	400
Payment of grant - Bradley Arm Canal towpath improvements (CRT) Approval is sought for the inclusion of this new project to grant payment to Canal and River Trust for improvement works to Bradley Arm Canal towpath under the Local Growth funded Managing Short Trips programme.	207	-	-	-	-	207
Parks Strategy & Open Spaces - Fowlers Park A project to utilise S106 funding to improve access, path network and habitat creation.	20	180	-	-	-	200
Local Safety Schemes - Stafford Street pedestrian crossing Approval is sought for the inclusion of a project to install a pedestrian crossing on Stafford Street in line with planning agreement obligations fully funded by developer contribution.	20	100	-	-	-	120
Youth Centre Epic Café - retention payment Release of retention payment following the completion of works and issue of the end of defects certificate.	12	-	-	-	-	12
Subtotal expenditure	7,159	10,280	15,000	-	-	32,439
Financing						
Internal resources	6,512	10,000	15,000	-	-	31,512
External resources	647	280	-	-	-	927
Subtotal financing	7,159	10,280	15,000	-	-	32,439

Projects requiring approval

Appendix B

Projects related to revenue budget reduction and income generation proposals which require capital resources and are subject to approval by Cabinet and Council in February/March 2017 as part of the Budget 2017/18 setting process	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Highways Management Approval is sought for capital resources to facilitate the implementation of the third phase of highway management works.	120	-	-	-	-	120
Waste & Recycling strategy - service transformation Approval is sought for capital resources to facilitate the transformation of the Waste Service in anticipation of a favourable budget consultation outcome.	-	500	-	-	-	500
Commercial Facilities - Northycote Farm Approval is sought for capital resources for the development of commercial facilities at Northycote Farm in anticipation of a favourable budget consultation outcome.	-	200	-	-	-	200
District Parking Approval is sought for capital resources to facilitate a review of district parking in anticipation of a favourable budget consultation outcome.	-	130	-	-	-	130
Subtotal expenditure	120	830	-	-	-	950
Financing						
Internal resources	120	830	-	-	-	950
External resources	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal financing	120	830	-	-	-	950
Grand total expenditure	10,546	11,110	15,000	-	-	36,656
Financing						
Internal resources	7,910	10,830	15,000	-	-	33,740
External resources	2,636	280	-	-	-	2,916
Grand total financing	10,546	11,110	15,000	-	-	36,656

Virements for approval

Appendix C

Directorate	Capital project	Virement		Comments
		To existing project £000	To new project £000	
People	Children's Transformation - Barnhurst	(11)	-	
People	Children's Transformation - Avenues	(9)	-	
Corporate	Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes	(80)	-	Virement is proposed to finance a historic commitment regarding relocation of site at St Matthias school. New sites relocated to The Avenues and Barnhurst as part Childrens Transformation project.
Corporate	Contribution to Children's transformation project The Avenues/ Barnhurst	-	100	
People	Co-Location Programme - Provision for future schemes	(59)	-	
People	Children's Transformation - Bingley	-	59	Virement is proposed to contribute towards new Bingley project.
People	Co-Location Programme - Provision for future schemes	(18)	-	
People	Children's Transformation - Avenues	(16)	-	Virement is proposed to contribute towards new Graiseley project.
People	Children's Transformation - Graiseley	-	34	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Barnhurst Family Day Centre	(50)	-	Barnhurst project now includes mechanical and electrical works that were originally included under the corporate asset management programme. Virement is proposed to contribute towards the additional costs.
People	Children's Transformation - Barnhurst	50	-	
People	Sports Investment Strategy - Provision for future schemes	(180)	-	Virement is proposed to contribute towards new Peace Green sport facilities project.
People	Peace Green sport facilities	-	180	
People	Community Hubs - Provision for future schemes	(100)	-	Virement is proposed to contribute towards Low Hill project.
People	Community Hubs - Low Hill	100	-	
People	Childrens Social Care Homes	(450)	-	Budget is no longer required and therefore a virement to the Corporate Contingency is proposed as per the capital financial strategy.
Corporate	Corporate Contingency	450	-	
Corporate	ICT - Infrastructure Upgrades (ICT Main programme)	(88)	-	The proposed virements are to reallocate resources across projects within the ICT programme. The scheduling of projects and associated resources are under constant review as costs, priorities and system solutions are adjusted in a complex and ever changing IT environment.
Corporate	ICT - Storage Refresh (ICT Main programme)	(50)	-	
Corporate	ICT - Data Centres (ICT Main programme)	(2)	-	
Corporate	ICT - Future Developments	140	-	
Corporate	Corporate Contingency	(185)	-	Virements are proposed in order to facilitate further upgrades which include studio lighting and access controls within Leisure Centres Enhancement programme.
Corporate	Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement	124	-	
Corporate	Central Baths Enhancements	42	-	
Corporate	Bert Williams Leisure Centre Enhancements	19	-	
Corporate	Asbestos Removal - Provision for future schemes	(93)	-	
Corporate	Stow Heath Primary - asbestos removal	-	20	
Corporate	Graiseley Primary - asbestos removal	-	16	
Corporate	Colton Hills Secondary - asbestos removal	-	15	Virements are proposed in order to facilitate asbestos removal works within the schools.
Corporate	Warstones Primary - asbestos removal	-	15	
Corporate	Claregate Primary - asbestos removal	-	13	
Corporate	Wodensfield Primary - asbestos removal	-	9	
Corporate	Penn Hall Special - asbestos removal	-	5	
Corporate	Boiler upgrades/replacement pipework/heaters - Provision for future schemes	(83)	-	
Corporate	Woodthorne Primary - replacement boiler plant and controls to Infants block	(11)	-	
Corporate	St Andrew's Church of England Primary - replacement boiler plant and control panel	(6)	-	The original estimate was based on an engineer's estimate. Tenders received diverge from that.
Corporate	Dovecotes Primary - replacement hot and cold water	(4)	-	
Corporate	Ashmore Park Nursery - replacement calorifier	(3)	-	
Corporate	Graiseley Primary - replacement cold water and main pipework	(3)	-	
Corporate	Braybrook Centre - boiler replacement	-	60	Boiler upgrade at the school at Braybrook school
Corporate	Long Knowle Primary - replacement pipework	27	-	
Corporate	Spring Vale Primary - replacement hot and cold water supply	12	-	
Corporate	Bantock Primary - re-pipe heating	10	-	The additional costs involved are for professional fees, contingency and an asbestos survey.
Corporate	Spring Vale Primary - upgrade gas main to boiler house	1	-	
Corporate	Roof replacements and ceilings - Provision for future schemes	(48)	-	The original estimate was based on an engineer's estimate. Tenders received diverge from that.
Corporate	Whitgreave Junior - replacement roof covering	(6)	-	
Corporate	Moreton Secondary - pitched roof structural works	-	40	Work being carried out to the school's pitched roofs.
Corporate	Stow Heath Primary - replacement roof to nursery	8	-	
Corporate	D'Eyncourt Primary - replacement roof covering	4	-	
Corporate	Wodensfield Primary - replacement ceiling and lighting	2	-	

Virements for approval

Appendix C

Directorate	Capital project (continued)	Virement		Comments	
		Existing project £000	New project £000		
Corporate	Structural/demolition/external works/security - Provision for future schemes	(65)	-	Project has now been updated to include an additional scheme to resurface the playground, as well as the car park. Virement is proposed to facilitate the works.	
Corporate	Castlecroft Primary - resurface of playground and car park	65	-		
Corporate	Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes	(20)	-	Virement is proposed towards a new toilets upgrade project at Orchard Centre.	
Corporate	Orchard Centre - toilet upgrade	-	20		
Corporate	Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes	(160)	-	Virements are proposed to facilitate emergency works to Woodfield school drainage system and refurbishment of the lift due to Health and Safety concerns.	
Corporate	Woodfield Junior - drainage work	-	150		
Corporate	Kingston Centre - lift refurbishment	-	10		
Corporate	Villiers Primary - electrical mains & sub-mains	(25)	-	School to pay for cost of the works no longer funded from capital programme.	
Corporate	Long Knowle Primary - electrical remedial works	(21)	-		
Corporate	St Thomas Church of England Primary - electrical remedial works	(10)	-	The original estimate was based on an engineer's estimate. Tenders received diverge from that.	
Corporate	St Andrew's Church of England Primary - electrical remedial works	(6)	-		
Corporate	Goldthorn Park Primary - electrical remedial works	(3)	-	Remedial Rewiring and Electrical works following a routine inspection.	
Corporate	Grove Primary - electrical remedial works	-	15		
Corporate	West Park Primary - electrical remedial works	14	-		
Corporate	Spring Vale Primary - electrical remedial works	12	-		
Corporate	Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes	12	-		
Corporate	Christ Church Junior - electrical remedial works	3	-		
Corporate	Lanesfield Primary - electrical remedial works	2	-		
Corporate	Whitgreave Infants - electrical remedial works	2	-		
Corporate	Whitgreave Junior - electrical remedial works	2	-		
Corporate	Woodthorne Primary - electrical remedial works	2	-		
Corporate	Claregate Primary - electrical remedial works	1	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	(170)	-		Changes in the design and specification have resulted in a saving. Therefore virements are proposed to meet higher than anticipated costs on other projects within Primary Expansion Programme.
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme - Future expansion programmes	(110)	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Eastfield Primary	(50)	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Bushbury Hill Primary	(20)	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Westacre Primary	(20)	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Lanesfield Primary	200	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - St Bartholomews Church of England Primary	150	-		
Corporate	Primary Expansion Programme (Phase 3) - Stowlawn Primary	20	-		
Corporate	Contingency for Emergency Works - Provision for future schemes	(36)	-	Virements are proposed from the Provision for Future Schemes budgets to cover costs of the new projects.	
Corporate	Uncommitted balance of Capital Maintenance - Provision for future schemes	(16)	-		
Corporate	Colton Hills Secondary - installations of closed circuit tv	-	45		
Corporate	Wood End Primary - Priority School Building Programme	-	7		
Place	Bilston Urban Village - Remediation of site in readiness for development	(233)	-	Revision of Bilston Urban Village project to meet external funding requirements and the contract award being much lower than anticipated resulted in savings which are proposed to be vired to i54 Western Extension project. Further virement is proposed from Reallocation of Resources for Regeneration Priorities to support this new project.	
Place	Westside - Demolition of Heantun House	(395)	-		
Place	Reallocation of Resources for Regeneration Priorities	(372)	-		
Place	i54 Western Extension	-	1,000		
Place	Westside - Demolition of Heantun House	(77)	-	Due to the contract award being much lower than anticipated, a virement is proposed to cover extra works in accordance with tenants requirements and issues with utilities mid contract.	
Place	Southside - Ecology Survey 20/21 Cleveland Street	36	-		
Place	Southside - Demolition of 42-50 Snow Hill	11	-		
Place	Southside - Demolition of 50/51 Snow Hill	30	-		
Place	Westside - Demolition of Heantun House	(130)	-	Contract award much lower than anticipated	
Place	Westside - Markets Re-location	130	-		
				Requirements for additional infrastructure including toilets, chillers and works to aisle and fish cabins.	

Virements for approval

Appendix C

Directorate	Capital project (continued)	Virement		Comments
		To existing project £000	To new project £000	
Place	Integrated Transport - Provision for future programmes	(288)	-	Proposed virements reflect the reprioritisation of the transport capital programme within available funding.
Place	Safety Programme - Provision for future programmes	(278)	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Ring Road St John's Phase 2	(76)	-	
Place	Local Safety Schemes - Wolverhampton Road East Crossing	(70)	-	
Place	Active Travel Programme - Provision for future programmes	(60)	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - UTC - Wireless Communications	(50)	-	
Place	Local Safety Schemes - Penn Road / Manor Road (30mph)	(4)	-	
Place	Local Safety Schemes - Traffic Regulation Orders/ Signs&Guardrails/Road Markings	(4)	-	
Place	City Centre Transport & Movement Enhancements 2015/16	250	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - New Cross area parking management	150	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Alfred Squire Road/Neachells Lane traffic signals	120	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Ring road & City centre signage	80	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Wobaston Road (inc 30mph)	65	-	
Place	Managing Short Trips - Cycle Route i54 Link from Bushbury/Heath Town	50	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Traffic Signs replacement	30	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Bus infrastructure improvements	30	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Common Database software upgrade	25	-	
Place	Safer Routes to School - Windmill Crescent - school gate parking	20	-	
Place	Integrated Transport - Vine Island/Wobaston Road	10	-	
Place	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) - Provision for future programmes	(95)	-	Proposed virements reflect the reprioritisation of the transport capital programme within available funding.
Place	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) Council Assets - Strengthening	(30)	-	
Place	Accessing Growth Fund - Pinfold Bridge, Wednesfield Road	125	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Provision for future programmes	(919)	-	Proposed virements reflect the reprioritisation of the transport capital programme within available funding.
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Bushbury Road carriageway	(200)	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Bridgnorth Road	(182)	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Penn Road Carriageway	(94)	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Bath Road Carriageway	(26)	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Bushbury Lane Carriageway	(12)	-	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Stafford Road (Bushbury Lane to Greenwood Road)	-	1,213	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Wednesfield High Street	-	110	
Place	Transport Structural Maintenance - Pothole works	-	110	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Bingley Enterprise relay room 5 floor	(21)	-	Project completed therefore virement to new project is proposed.
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Towers Outdoor Education Centre Window Replacement	-	21	New project developed due to reprioritisation of works.

Virements for approval

Appendix C

Directorate	Capital project (continued)	Virement		Comments
		Existing project £000	New project £000	
Place	Street Lighting (rolling programme) - Provision for future programmes	(350)	-	Proposed virements reflect the reprioritisation of the transport capital programme within available funding.
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Black Country Route Carriageway	(138)	-	
Place	Maintenance of unclassified roads - Provision for future programmes	(85)	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Penn Road Carriageway	(31)	-	
Place	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) - Compton Bridge Resurfacing	(25)	-	
Place	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls) Council Assets - Strengthening	(7)	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Bushbury Lane Carriageway	(5)	-	
Place	Maintenance of unclassified roads (footways/carriageways) - Brooklands Parade and roads off (FW)	384	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Waddensbrook Lane (Broad Lane South to Wednesfield Way)	141	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Warstones Road (Springhill Lane Junction)	62	-	
Place	Maintenance of unclassified roads (footways/carriageways) - Newhampton Road East/Park Avenue Junction (CW)	31	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Birmingham New Road Carriageway	19	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Ring Road St Andrews Carriageways	2	-	
Place	Maintenance of classified roads - Ring Road St Peters	2	-	
Total		(3,267)	3,267	

Virements to note

Directorate	Capital project	Virement required £000	Comments
Corporate	Future Works - System Implementation	(4)	The small budget retained to cover any residual costs of the FutureWorks programme is no longer required. A virement to the Corporate Contingency budget is proposed as per the capital financial strategy.
Corporate	Corporate Contingency	4	
Corporate	Merridale Primary - replacement of windows and roof lights	(10)	Virement is proposed due to the costs being lower than initially anticipated.
Corporate	Window upgrade - Provision for future schemes	10	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Avenues Family Centre re-wiring etc	(5)	Reprioritisation of existing schemes
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Avenues Family Centre re-wiring and upgrading of electrical systems	5	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Wolverhampton Art Gallery - Makers Dozen resurfacing works	(25)	Reprioritisation of existing schemes
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Art Gallery provide protection to main lantern light	25	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Bradmore Community Centre - rewiring and electrical upgrade	(16)	Reprioritisation of existing schemes
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Bradmore Community Centre rewiring	16	
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Hall Green Cemetery structural maintenance of paths/car parks	(28)	Reprioritisation of existing schemes
Place	Corporate Asset Management - Bushbury Crematorium re-wiring and upgrading of electrical systems	28	
Place	Parks Strategy & Open spaces - Greenway Playing Fields (Bradley Facilities)	(20)	Redirection of S106 funding towards open space works within the Bilston Urban Village project.
Place	Bilston Urban Village - Remediation of site in readiness for development	20	
Place	Small Works Assistance - Provision for future programmes	(15)	Increased costs on the Showell road site refurbishment can be met from underspends on small works assistance grants
Place	Showell road site refurbishment	15	
Total		-	

Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2016/17	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Claire Nye Tel Email	Chief Accountant 01902 550478 Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board Council Confident, Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	15 November 2016 14 December 2016 15 March 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. The Cabinet recommends that Council notes:
 - a) A mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement has been undertaken and the Council has operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2016.
 - b) Savings of £533,000 for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are forecast from treasury management activities in 2016/17.

Recommendation(s) for noting:

1. The Cabinet is asked to note:
 - a) In the event of updated capital programme figures being reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel or Cabinet outside of the 'Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17', a revised version of this report will be presented to Council on 14 December 2016.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides 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.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The treasury management activities of the Council are underpinned by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. For further information on the requirements of the Code please refer to the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 report which can be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link:

<https://wolverhamptonintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21176/Treasury%20management%20strategy%20201617.pdf>

- 2.2 Treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

- 2.3 The system of controls on local authority capital investment is based largely on self-regulation by local authorities themselves. At its heart is CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance.
- 2.4 Cabinet / Cabinet (Resources) Panel receives quarterly reports throughout the year to monitor performance against the strategy and Prudential Indicators that have previously been approved by Council.
- 2.5 The Council continues to use Capita Asset Services as its treasury management advisors throughout 2016/17. Capita provides market data and intelligence on which the Council can make decisions regarding all aspects of treasury management activities and in particular, managing the risks associated with investing surplus cash.

3.0 2016/17 forecast

- 3.1 The forecast outturn for treasury management activities in 2016/17 compared to budget is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Treasury management budget and forecast outturn 2016/17

	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
General Fund	14,419	13,886	(533)
Housing Revenue Account	13,310	10,961	(2,349)
Total	27,729	24,847	(2,882)

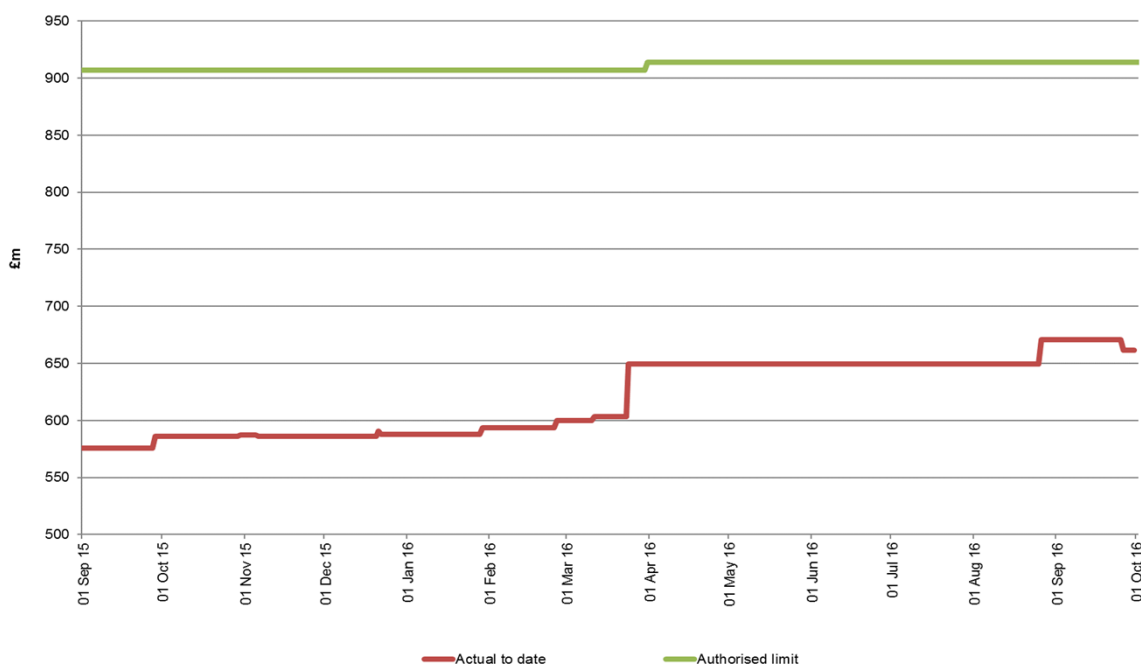
- 3.2 Savings of £533,000 for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the HRA are projected for the year 2016/17. The main reasons are due to a reduced borrowing need in year because of slippage in the capital programme and, following the publication of the Council's Statement of Accounts 2015/16, a detailed analysis of the balance sheet has been undertaken to update the split of interest between the General Fund and HRA. This has resulted in a reduced proportion to the HRA which has been reflected in the forecasts above. The Council's strategy is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure rather than external borrowing. Borrowings are actively managed to achieve savings wherever possible.
- 3.3 Appendix A shows a comparison of the latest estimates of Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators over the medium term period with the equivalent figures which were approved by Council in March 2016.
- 3.4 The forecasts in this report are based on the capital programme requirements included in the report 'Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17' also being presented at this meeting. In the event of updated capital programme figures being reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel or Cabinet outside of this report, a revised version of this treasury report will be presented to Council on 14 December 2016 which will include the impact of any such changes.
- 4.0 Borrowing forecast for 2016/17**
- 4.1 The Council's need to borrow and the rates available continue to be monitored in order to achieve optimum results. The Council's medium term forecast is regularly updated to reflect actual borrowing that takes place along with any revisions to future anticipated borrowing.
- 4.2 Table 2 shows the average rate of interest payable in 2015/16 and forecast for 2016/17.

Table 2 – Average interest rate payable in 2015/16 and 2016/17

	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Forecast
Average Interest Rate Payable	3.74%	3.71%

- 4.3 Each year it is necessary to raise new loans to finance capital expenditure and to replace existing maturing borrowing. The Council's policy is to prioritise the use of capital receipts to finance capital expenditure. Balances which are set aside to meet credit liabilities (i.e. to repay borrowing) are used to reduce the external borrowing requirement. Decisions to take borrowing will be made by the Director of Finance when it is judged that rates are likely to be at their lowest levels, and probably about to rise according to market indications, and only when an inflow of funds is required to meet imminent cash flow commitments. This will keep overall surplus cash balances to a minimum, in line with the current strategy. Appendix B shows the maturity profile of external borrowing.
- 4.4 As always, the Council needs to be mindful that the opportunity to secure short term savings by postponing longer term borrowing requirements takes into account the risk of long term rates increasing in the future. Appendix C includes the Capita commentary for quarter two 2016/17 and forecasts that interest rates across all periods will increase up to March 2020. Due to the current climate following the result of the EU Referendum and the US Presidential Election, Capita have refreshed their interest rate forecasts on 15 November 2016 and these have been reflected in this report. The Director of Finance will continue to keep actual and forecast rates under close review.
- 4.5 The Council's borrowing profile continues to operate within the overall limits previously approved by Council, as shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1: Comparison of borrowing within approved borrowing limits over the previous 12 months



- 4.6 The level of borrowing at 30 September 2016 is £661.6 million. Appendix D shows a summary of this position along with a detailed breakdown of new loans and repayments made throughout the year. £52.6 million of existing borrowing is due to be repaid between quarter's three and four.
- 4.7 The Council holds a number of Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) variable rate loans with a total value of £103.8 million. During the quarter, the Council was notified by one of the lenders that they will waive their rights under the lender's option to change the interest rate in the future on the LOBO's currently held with them. Therefore, these loans totalling £55.8 million have now become fixed rate loans which alters the borrowing type percentage between variable and fixed shown in appendix D.
- 4.8 In March 2016, Council approved a net borrowing requirement for 2016/17 of £165.7 million. The forecast net borrowing requirement for 2016/17 is £167.4 million, as shown in appendix E. This appendix also shows the details for the disclosure for certainty rate, which enables the Council to access discounted borrowing at 0.20% below normal PWLB rates.

5.0 Investment forecast for 2016/17

- 5.1 The approach during the year is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure so as to keep cash balances low.
- 5.2 Table 3 shows the total amount of surplus funds invested as at 30 June 2016 and 30 September 2016.

Table 3 – Total amounts invested 2016/17

	30 June 2016 £000	30 September 2016 £000
Business Reserve Accounts	10,255	258
Money Market Funds	7,920	23,955
	18,175	24,213
Average cash balance for the year to date	30,541	34,244

- 5.3 Money Market Funds and Business Reserve Accounts are the main investments used as these have high credit ratings and instant access. This is based on the Council's low appetite for risk.
- 5.4 The Council's cash flow balance for the second quarter of the current financial year has moved between a low of £24.1 million and a maximum of £61.0 million. The average cash balance for the quarter being £36.8 million.
- 5.5 Table 4 shows the budgeted average rate of interest receivable in 2016/17 and the forecast for the year.

Table 4 – Average interest rate receivable in 2016/17

	2016/17 Budget	2016/17 Forecast
Average Interest Rate Receivable	0.50%	0.47%

- 5.6 The low interest rates will have minimal impact on the budget due to savings generated by avoiding the cost of borrowing.
- 5.7 The Council will avoid locking into longer term deals while investment rates are at historically low levels. Investment rates are expected to continue to be below long term borrowing rates, in which case, the Council can minimise its overall net treasury costs in the short term by continuing to avoid new external borrowing and by using internal cash balances to finance new capital expenditure or to replace maturing external borrowing (this is referred to as internal borrowing).
- 5.8 The Council manages its investments in-house and invests only in the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list, which is reviewed each time a counterparty is subject to a credit rating amendment. The Council's strategy allows for investments for a range of periods from overnight to five years, depending on the Council's cash flows, its interest rate view and the interest rates on offer. However, in order to maintain sufficient liquidity whilst total investment levels are relatively low, most investments have been placed for shorter durations.
- 5.9 The approved Treasury Management Code of Practice sets out the criteria to be used for creating and managing approved counterparty lists and limits. As a result of any changes to credit criteria, the Director of Finance is authorised to make changes to the list of approved counterparties. In the event that any of these counterparties fall below the Council's minimum lending criteria, activity in that account will temporarily cease and any balance withdrawn immediately. Appendix F shows the Council's current specified investments lending list.
- 5.10 In quarter two 2016/17 the Director of Finance has not been required to use his discretion to temporarily exceed any upper limits with approved counter-parties.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report.

[SH/10112016/B]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council's Treasury Management activity must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003. In addition the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out requirements for local authorities in respect of capital controls,

borrowing and credit arrangements. The Council is also required to comply with the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

- 7.2 Treasury Management relates to the management of the Council's cash flow, borrowing and cash investments. This involves seeking the best rates of interest for borrowing, earning interest on investments, whilst managing risk in making financial decisions and adopting proper accounting practice.
- 7.3 The area is heavily regulated. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regulates the operation of the Housing Revenue Account. The 'CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services', contains Treasury Management indicators and advice on Treasury Management Strategy. Investment strategy is regulated by 'DCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments' issued initially in 2004 and re-issued in 2010. Part 2 of this Guidance is statutory guidance.

[Legal Code: TS/10112016/F]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 This report has no equality implications.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 This report has no environmental implications.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 This report has no human resources implications.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 This report has no corporate landlord implications.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17, Report to Cabinet, 24 February 2016

Treasury Management – Annual Report 2015/16 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2016/17, Report to Cabinet, 20 July 2016

Capital budget quarter two monitoring 2016/17, Report to Cabinet, 30 November 2016

13.0 Schedule of appendices

App	Title
A	Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators
B	Maturity rate profile
C	Capita commentary quarter two 2016/17
D	Borrowing type, borrowing and repayments
E	Certainty rate disclosure
F	Lending list

APPENDIX A

Debt and Treasury Management - Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

Prudential Indicators (PI)

PI for Affordability - These indicators are used to ensure the total capital investment of the council is within a sustainable limit and the impact of these decisions are considered with regard to acceptable council tax and housing rent levels.

PI 1 - Estimates and Actual ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.

This represents the cost of financing capital expenditure as a % of net revenue for both the General Fund and HRA.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Forecast	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Forecast
General Fund	6.0%	7.6%	14.4%	6.4%	7.9%	13.6%
HRA	35.2%	36.1%	38.0%	33.4%	34.2%	35.1%

PI 2 - Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the council tax and housing rents.

The council could consider different options for its capital investment programme in relation to their different impact on the council tax and housing rents. Negatives reflect a reduction in total capital expenditure.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Forecast £	2017/18 Forecast £	2018/19 Forecast £	2016/17 Forecast £	2017/18 Forecast £	2018/19 Forecast £
Financial year impact						
Implications of the capital programme for year:						
For Band D council tax	97.03	120.34	127.56	99.08	229.17	269.22
For average weekly housing rents	1.42	3.36	3.93	1.08	3.55	4.52
Marginal impact to previous quarter						
Implications of the capital programme for year:						
For Band D council tax	7.98	12.65	14.11	(6.72)	62.38	89.84
For average weekly housing rents	(0.25)	(0.50)	(0.60)	(0.77)	(0.68)	(0.28)

PI 3 - Estimates and actual capital expenditure.

An update of capital expenditure plans and funding can be found in the Capital budget quarter two capital budget monitoring 2016/17 report.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000
General Fund	108,733	45,622	13,884	118,982	125,229	42,454
HRA	48,616	52,014	32,269	41,518	60,391	39,258
	157,349	97,636	46,153	160,500	185,620	81,712

APPENDIX A

Debt and Treasury Management - Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

PI 4 - Estimates and actual capital financing requirement General Fund and HRA.

The capital financing requirement measures the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
General Fund	632,523	646,065	636,114	611,480	695,399	710,207
HRA	293,338	304,899	301,482	281,904	298,862	299,292
	925,861	950,964	937,596	893,384	994,261	1,009,499

PI 5 - Authorised limit for external debt.

These limits apply to the total external debt gross of investments and separately identify borrowing from other long term liabilities such as finance leases including Private Finance Initiatives (PFI).

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Limit £000	Limit £000	Limit £000
Borrowing	914,038	913,021	918,009
Other Long Term Liabilities	94,585	92,488	90,005
Total Authorised Limit	1,008,623	1,005,509	1,008,014
Actual and Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2016	827,633	942,702	977,916
Variance (Under) / Over Authorised limit	(180,990)	(62,807)	(30,098)

PI 6 - Operational boundary for external debt.

This is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but directly reflects the Director of Finance's estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario, without the additional headroom included.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2016		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Limit £000	Limit £000	Limit £000
Borrowing	893,284	902,994	915,006
Other Long Term Liabilities	94,585	92,488	90,005
Total Operational Boundary Limit	987,869	995,482	1,005,011
Actual and Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2016	827,633	942,702	977,916
Variance (Under) / Over Operational Boundary Limit	(160,236)	(52,780)	(27,095)

Debt and Treasury Management - Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

PI 7 - HRA limit on indebtedness.						
This maximum debt limit has been set by Government as part of the self-financing regime and is compared to the HRA capital financing requirement.						
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000
HRA Debt Limit	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770	356,770
HRA Capital Financing Requirement	293,338	304,899	301,482	281,904	298,862	299,292
Headroom	63,432	51,871	55,288	74,866	57,908	57,478

PI for Prudence - Ensuring that external debt is sustainable and compliance with good professional practice are essential

PI 8a - Gross debt and the capital financing requirement.						
"In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years". This replaced PI 8 net debt and the capital financing requirement from 2013/14 onwards.						
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000	2016/17 Forecast £000	2017/18 Forecast £000	2018/19 Forecast £000
Forecast Capital Financing Requirement at end of Second Year	950,963	950,963	950,963	1,009,499	1,009,499	1,009,499
Gross Debt	829,350	867,363	876,892	827,633	942,702	977,916
Capital Financing Requirement Greater than Gross Debt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PI 9 - Has the local authority adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice. Yes

Debt and Treasury Management - Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

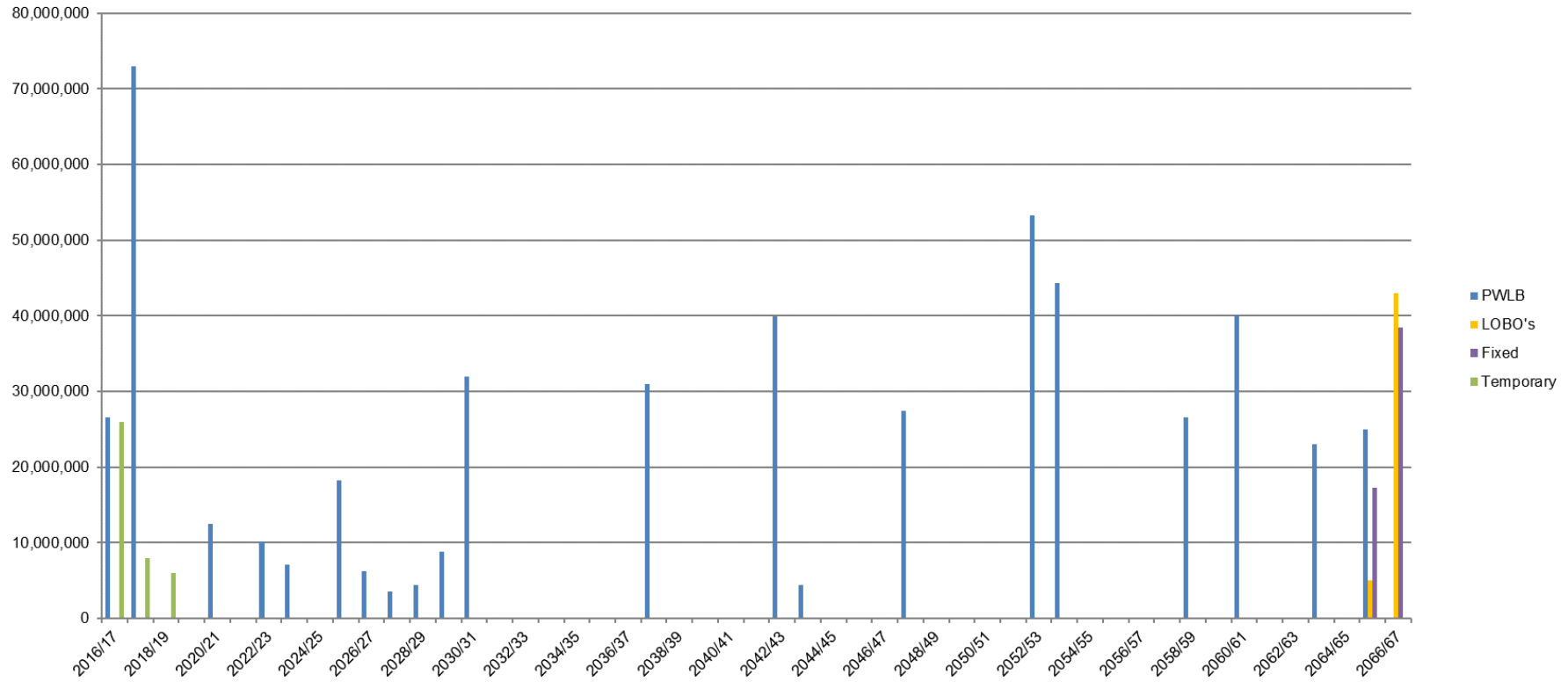
Treasury Management Indicators (TMI)

TMI 1 - Upper limits on fixed interest and variable interest exposures.						
These relate to the levels of net outstanding principal sums exposed to fixed and variable interest rates.						
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17 Limit	2017/18 Limit	2018/19 Limit	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Forecast
Upper limit for fixed rate	100%	100%	100%	93%	94%	95%
Upper limit for variable rate	20%	20%	20%	7%	6%	5%

TMI 2 - Upper and lower limits to the maturity structure of its borrowing.			
These limits relate to the % of fixed rate debt maturing.			
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016		As at 30 September 2016
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	2016/17 Forecast Borrowing
Under 12 months	25%	0%	11.30%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	13.79%
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	2.50%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%	5.17%
10 years and above	90%	50%	67.24%

TMI 3 - Upper limits to the total of principal sums invested longer than 364 days.			
This details the maximum amount which can be invested for up to 5 years (as per paragraph 1.6 of the Annual Investment Strategy).			
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016		
	2016/17 Limit £000	2017/18 Limit £000	2018/19 Limit £000
Upper limit for more than 364 days	35,000	35,000	35,000
Actual and Forecast Invested at 30 September 2016	-	-	-
Variance (Under) / Over Limit	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)

Borrowing Maturity at 30 September 2016



Economic Background

The following economic background has been provided by the Council's Treasury Advisors, Capita Asset Services.

UK

UK GDP growth rates in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2014 were strong but 2015 was disappointing at 1.8%, though it still remained one of the leading rates among the G7 countries. Growth improved in quarter 4 of 2015 from +0.4% to 0.7% but fell back to +0.4% (2.0% y/y) in quarter 1 of 2016 before bouncing back again to +0.7% (2.1% y/y) in quarter 2. During most of 2015, the economy had faced headwinds for exporters from the appreciation during the year of sterling against the Euro, and weak growth in the EU, China and emerging markets, plus the dampening effect of the Government's continuing austerity programme. The referendum vote for Brexit in June this year delivered an immediate shock fall in confidence indicators and business surveys, pointing to an impending sharp slowdown in the economy. However, subsequent surveys have shown a sharp recovery in confidence and business surveys, though it is generally expected that although the economy will now avoid flat lining, growth will be weak through the second half of 2016 and in 2017.

The Bank of England meeting on August 4th addressed this expected slowdown in growth by a package of measures including a cut in Bank Rate from 0.50% to 0.25%. The Inflation Report included an unchanged forecast for growth for 2016 of 2.0% but cut the forecast for 2017 from 2.3% to just 0.8%. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, had warned that a vote for Brexit would be likely to cause a slowing in growth, particularly from a reduction in business investment, due to the uncertainty of whether the UK would have continuing full access, (i.e. without tariffs), to the EU single market. He also warned that the Bank could not do all the heavy lifting and suggested that the Government will need to help growth by increasing investment expenditure and possibly by using fiscal policy tools (taxation). The new Chancellor Phillip Hammond announced after the referendum result, that the target of achieving a budget surplus in 2020 will be eased in the Autumn Statement on November 23.

The Inflation Report also included a sharp rise in the forecast for inflation to around 2.4% in 2018 and 2019. CPI has started rising during 2016 as the falls in the price of oil and food twelve months ago fall out of the calculation during the year and, in addition, the post referendum 10% fall in the value of sterling on a trade weighted basis is likely to result in a 3% increase in CPI over a time period of 3-4 years. However, the MPC is expected to look thorough a one off upward blip from this devaluation of sterling in order to support economic growth, especially if pay increases continue to remain subdued and therefore pose little danger of stoking core inflationary price pressures within the UK economy.

USA

The American economy had a patchy 2015 with sharp swings in the growth rate leaving the overall growth for the year at 2.4%. Quarter 1 of 2016 disappointed at +0.8% on an annualised basis while quarter 2 improved, but only to a lacklustre +1.4%. However, forward indicators are pointing towards a pickup in growth in the rest of 2016. The Fed. embarked on its long

APPENDIX C

anticipated first increase in rates at its December 2015 meeting. At that point, confidence was high that there would then be four more increases to come in 2016. Since then, more downbeat news on the international scene and then the Brexit vote, have caused a delay in the timing of the second increase which is now strongly expected in December this year.

Eurozone

In the Eurozone, the ECB commenced in March 2015 its massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing to buy high credit quality government and other debt of selected EZ countries at a rate of €60bn per month; this was intended to run initially to September 2016 but was extended to March 2017 at its December 2015 meeting. At its December and March meetings it progressively cut its deposit facility rate to reach -0.4% and its main refinancing rate from 0.05% to zero. At its March meeting, it also increased its monthly asset purchases to €80bn. These measures have struggled to make a significant impact in boosting economic growth and in helping inflation to rise from around zero towards the target of 2%. GDP growth rose by 0.6% in quarter 1 2016 (1.7% y/y) but slowed to +0.3% (+1.6% y/y) in quarter 2. This has added to comments from many forecasters that central banks around the world are running out of ammunition to stimulate economic growth and to boost inflation. They stress that national governments will need to do more by way of structural reforms, fiscal measures and direct investment expenditure to support demand in their economies and economic growth.

Interest rate forecasts

The Council's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided this updated forecast as at November:

	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20
Bank rate	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%
5yr PWLB rate	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.80%	1.90%	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%
10yr PWLB rate	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%
25yr PWLB rate	2.90%	2.90%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%
50yr PWLB rate	2.70%	2.70%	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%

Economic forecasting remains difficult with so many external influences weighing on the UK. Our Bank Rate forecasts, (and also MPC decisions); will be liable to further amendment depending on how economic data and developments in financial markets transpire over the next year. Forecasts for average earnings beyond the three year time horizon will be heavily dependent on economic and political developments. Major volatility in bond yields is likely to endure as investor fears and confidence ebb and flow between favouring more risky assets i.e. equities, or the safe haven of bonds.

APPENDIX C

The overall longer run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to rise, albeit gently. An eventual world economic recovery may also see investors switching from the safe haven of bonds to equities.

We have pointed out consistently that the Fed. Rate is likely to go up more quickly and more strongly than Bank Rate in the UK and recent events have not changed that view, just that the timing of such increases may well have been deferred somewhat during 2016. While there is normally a high degree of correlation between the two yields, we would expect to see a growing decoupling of yields between the two i.e. we would expect US yields to go up faster than UK yields. We will need to monitor this area closely and the resulting effect on PWLB rates.

The overall balance of risks to economic recovery in the UK remains to the downside, particularly with the current uncertainty over the final terms of Brexit.

We would, as always, remind clients of the view that we have expressed in our previous interest rate revision newsflashes of just how unpredictable PWLB rates and bond yields are at present. We are experiencing exceptional levels of volatility which are highly correlated to geo-political and sovereign debt crisis developments. Our revised forecasts are based on the Certainty Rate (minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:-

- Geopolitical risks in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, which could lead to increasing safe haven flows.
- UK economic growth and increases in inflation are weaker than we currently anticipate.
- Weak growth or recession in the UK's main trading partners - the EU and US.
- A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis.
- Weak capitalisation of some European banks.
- Monetary policy action failing to stimulate sustainable growth and combat the threat of deflation in western economies, especially the Eurozone and Japan.

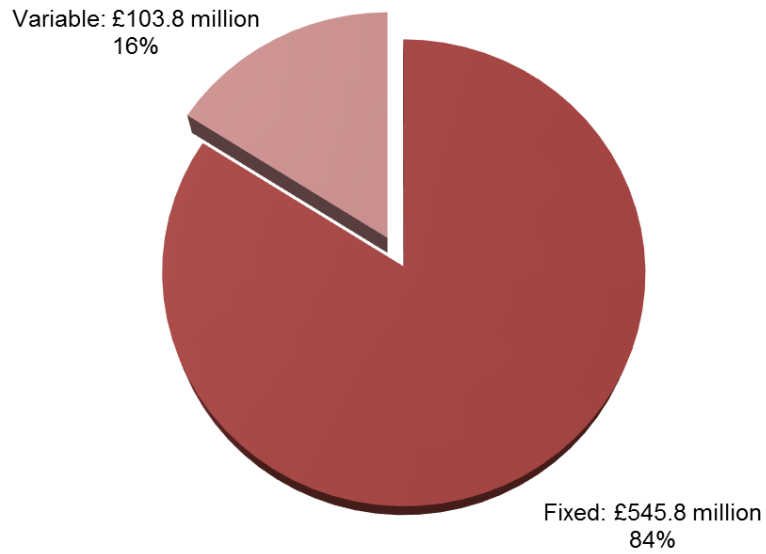
The potential for upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates, especially for longer term PWLB rates include:-

- The pace and timing of increases in the Fed. funds rate causing a fundamental reassessment by investors of the relative risks of holding bonds as opposed to equities and leading to a major flight from bonds to equities.
- UK inflation returning to significantly higher levels than in the wider EU and US, causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

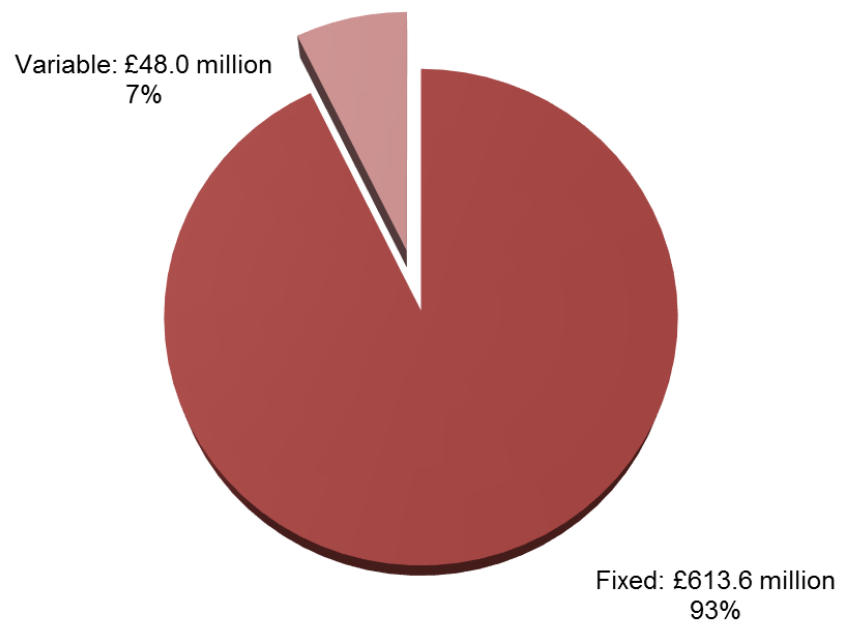
Borrowing: Graphical Summary

Borrowing by Type

As at 30 June 2016



As at 30 September 2016



APPENDIX D

Borrowing and Repayments in 2016/17

	Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount £000	Length	Interest Rate	Full Year Interest £
2016/17 Borrowing						
PWLB Fixed Maturity:				years		
505322	26/08/2016	20/08/2060	40,000	44	1.90%	760,000
Sub total for PWLB			40,000		1.90%	760,000
Grand total borrowing			40,000			760,000
2016/17 Repayments						
Temporary Loans:				days		
Bristol City Council	28/08/2015	26/08/2016	14,000	364	0.60%	84,000
Bristol City Council	28/08/2015	26/08/2016	3,000	364	0.60%	18,000
Wokingham Borough Council	28/08/2015	26/08/2016	2,000	364	0.58%	11,600
London Borough of Hillingdon	28/09/2015	26/09/2016	7,000	364	0.60%	42,000
Solihull MBC	28/09/2015	26/09/2016	2,000	364	0.60%	12,000
Sub total for temporary loans			28,000		0.60%	167,600
Grand total repayments			28,000			167,600
Net movement			12,000			592,400

Disclosure for Certainty Rate

Certainty Rate						
This table details the information that is required to enable the Council to submit a return for 2016/17.						
	Approved by Council 2 March 2016			As at 30 September 2016		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Borrowing Requirement:						
Borrowing to Finance approved						
Capital Expenditure	83,018	40,110	12,012	80,098	118,461	39,035
Existing Maturity Loans to be Replaced During the Year	97,605	134,000	50,000	103,605	151,000	74,000
Less:						
Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment	-	-	(12,315)	-	-	(8,251)
Voluntary Debt Repayment	(14,882)	(12,910)	(10,582)	(16,322)	(14,192)	(11,724)
	(14,882)	(12,910)	(22,897)	(16,322)	(14,192)	(19,975)
Loans Replaced Less Debt Repayment	82,723	121,090	27,103	87,283	136,808	54,025
Net Advance Requirement	165,741	161,200	39,115	167,381	255,269	93,060

City of Wolverhampton Council
2016/17 Specified Investments Lending List as at 30 September 2016

Institution	Country (Sovereign Rating)	Limit £000	Term Limit
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	Australia (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Bank Netherlandse Gemeenten	Netherlands (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Bank of Montreal	Canada (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Bank of New York Mellon, The	USA (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	Canada (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Australia (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A.	Netherlands (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
DBS Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
HSBC Bank plc	UK (AA)	10,000	6 mths
JP Morgan Chase Bank NA	USA (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
National Australia Bank Ltd	Australia (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi (U.A.E) (AA)	5,000	3 mths
Nordea Bank AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Nordea Bank Finland plc	Finland (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Qatar National Bank	Qatar (AA)	5,000	3 mths
Royal Bank of Canada	Canada (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Svenska Handelsbanken AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Toronto Dominion Bank	Canada (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
United Overseas Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Wells Fargo Bank NA	USA (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Westpac Banking Corporation	Australia (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Nationalised Banks			
Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc			
National Westminster Bank plc	UK (AA)	10,000	3 mths
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	UK (AA)	10,000	3 mths
Money Market Funds	Fund Rating		
Invesco STIC Account	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Standard Life Investments Sterling Liquidity Fund	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Black Rock Sterling Liquidity Fund	Moody's Aaa-mf	20,000	Instant Access
Scottish Widows Sterling Liquidity Fund	Moody's Aaa-mf	20,000	Instant Access

Non-rated Institutions

County Councils, London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities - limits £6m and 12 months.
Shire District Councils, Fire and Civil Defence Authorities, Passenger Transport Authorities and Police
Authorities - limits £3m and 12 months.

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Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Implementing the Devolution Agreement – Mayoral Combined Authority Functions	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Transformation	
Accountable employee(s)	Rachel Ratcliffe	Policy Officer
	Tel	01902 551969
	Email	rachel.ratcliffe@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Matter referred by Council (9 th November 2016)	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Provide consent to the laying of the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 in Parliament, attached at appendix A.
2. Delegate approval of the outstanding areas of drafting agreement to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director - namely the unanimous voting provision and the Mayoral WMCA development corporation provision, and drafting and minor amendments to the Order.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

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

2. That the decision to approve the draft Order was referred from Council on the 9th November 2016, as the draft Order was not available for Council consideration at that time, due to areas requiring government response and approval.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the Mayoral WMCA Scheme consultation summary.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet's consent to lay the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 (the Order) in Parliament. The Order details the functions required by the Combined Authority to deliver the devolution deal.
- 1.3 To seek delegated approval to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director, of outstanding areas of agreement in the Order, namely the unanimous voting provision and the Mayoral WMCA development corporation provision, and minor and drafting amendments of the draft Order. This delegation will ensure that the draft Order can be laid in parliament as soon as possible following the constituent councils and Combined Authority consideration of the draft Order, if all approvals given.

2.0 Background

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

3.0 Consultation for functions to be conferred upon a Combined Authority

- 3.1 It is a requirement that a public consultation be undertaken in most cases where additional functions are to be conferred upon a Combined Authority. The functions required by the West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver the devolution agreement were identified in a Governance Review and subsequently detailed in the '[Scheme](#)' which was then consulted on.
- 3.2 The [consultation](#) was carried out from 4th July – 21st August 2016. The consultation sought views from the public and stakeholders on the additional functions proposed to be conferred on the West Midlands Combined Authority, in order to deliver the devolution agreement.
- 3.3 The summary report is available on the WMCA website via the following link: <https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1354/mayoral-wmca-consultation-report-for-upload.pdf> for Cabinet's information.

4.0 Scheme to Order process

- 4.1 Following the consultation, the Scheme and a summary of the responses were submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, as required.
- 4.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government then prepared the draft statutory West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 based on the Scheme, in consultation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and the relevant government departments.
- 4.3 At the Council meeting of the 9th November 2016 the draft Order was not available for Council approval as there were areas requiring government response and approval. Council therefore referred the matter to Cabinet for approval. The draft Order is available for Cabinet consideration, attached at appendix A.

5.0 The Draft Order

- 5.1 The draft Order reflects the devolution agreement and Scheme, as approved by Council on 18 May 2016. Where the draft Order does not reflect the Scheme, or there are variations, these key areas are detailed at paragraph 6.0 below and the full summary of drafting position at Appendix B.
- 5.2 The rationales for any variations are that: the detail is being considered further by government, it is not appropriate for some of the elements of the Scheme to be contained within the legislative Order (for example where the matter is already contained within existing legislation), and/ or the outcome required will be achieved through a different legislative means.

5.3 It is crucial for the delivery of the devolution deal and the wider devolution agenda that the draft Order is laid in Parliament as soon as possible. Therefore, Cabinet are asked to consent to the laying of the draft West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016 in Parliament and delegate approval of outstanding areas of agreement, namely the unanimous voting provision and the Mayoral WMCA development corporation provision to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director. Minor and drafting amendments are to be included in this delegation.

5.4 Following the Constituent Council's consideration of the draft Order, and the Combined Authority on the 9th December 2016, the draft Order will be laid in Parliament if all approvals are given. It is important to note that the Order cannot be amended once laid in Parliament, it will either be approved or rejected by Parliament.

6.0 Key areas of variation through Scheme to Order process

6.1 Items requiring unanimous decision of the Constituent Members

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

6.1.2 Following the incorporation of the Mayoral governance model into the Combined Authority, the government's position is that the exclusion of the Mayor in such items is not aligned to the devolution agenda.

6.1.3 Therefore these discussions have concluded largely in alignment with the held position – though the Mayor can vote on the items requiring the unanimous vote of the constituent members, the Mayor's vote is not required to carry a decision regarding the unanimous items, it is the unanimous decision of the Constituent members that is required. Government's position reflect this, however if the decision in question affects the exercise of the Mayor's functions then the Mayor must be in agreement to carry that decision.

6.1.4 This drafting is yet to be agreed and is therefore incomplete in the draft Order (Part 12 of the draft Order at appendix A) and so delegation to the Leader, in consultation with the Managing Director, is recommended to agree the position on this matter. It is important to note that in both outcomes a decision cannot be forced onto the Combined Authority by the Mayor with regards to the unanimous items.

6.2 Finance

6.2.1 Finance Order - DCLG have confirmed that a generic Financial Regulation Order will be laid in Parliament to cover financial aspect for all Combined Authorities. These will cover

the Non-Transport Levy, Precepting etc. Non Transport Borrowing at this stage will not be included as this has not been agreed for any Combined Authority by the Treasury. Further discussions are required and across the country the case is being made for Combined Authorities. In the West Midlands the Chair and Vice Chair have written to the Chancellor and the Region's MPs briefed.

- 6.2.2 Mayoral WMCA Development Corporation – current drafting is under discussion (Part 4 of the draft Order) as legal leads have raised the non-discretionary rate relief granting element of Mayoral WMCA development corporations, and at which points the constituent council provides approval of the establishment and its conditions. The drafting needs to be worked through to ensure the appropriate balance on the impact on the constituent council and the desire for growth. Therefore it is recommended that the confirmation of the final drafting position of the Mayoral WMCA development corporation provision is delegated to the Leader, in consultation with the Managing Director.

7.0 Next Steps

- 7.1 The draft Order is attached at appendix A, and a summary attached at appendix B, for reference. If approved by Cabinet the draft Order provisions, identified in paragraph 6.0 of this report, will be worked through and finalised and draft Order consented to by the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director.
- 7.2 Following Constituent Councils and the Combined Authority consideration of the draft Order, by the 9th December 2016, the draft Order will be laid in Parliament for the functions required to deliver the devolution deal to be conferred on the West Midlands Combined Authority.

8.0 Financial implications

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

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 The approval of all seven of the Constituent Councils of the West Midlands Combined Authority is required before the draft Order can be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will then go through the parliamentary process necessary for the draft Order to be formally approved and to become law. The consent of City of Wolverhampton Council is therefore required before this can be progressed.
- 9.2 The consent of the Council is an executive function and is therefore a decision which can be taken by Cabinet.
- 9.3 The Order provides details of the functions and powers that both the WMCA and the

Mayor will have, the status of the Order drafting is detailed in Appendix A. By consenting to the draft Order the Cabinet will be approving the conferral of the functions on the Mayoral WMCA required to deliver the devolution deal. [Legal Code: TS/03112016/W]

10.0 Equalities implications

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

11.0 Environmental implications

- 11.1 None

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 None

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 None

14.0 Schedule of background papers / links used

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

2nd March City of Wolverhampton report:

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21634/Agenda%20item%206%20Creating%20the%20Combined%20Authority.pdf>

18th May City of Wolverhampton report:

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

Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Governance Review and Scheme:

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1237/mayoralwmca-governance-review.pdf> / <https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1236/mayoral-wmca-scheme.pdf>

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

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

Consultation document:

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

Summary of consultation responses report:

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

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Appendix B

Summary of Scheme, draft Order proposal & Scheme compliance

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Membership		
2	Prior to appointment of Mayor, WMCA will appoint a Chair and up to 2 Vice Chairs	To be contained in draft Order? Yes In original Establishment Order and will be retained in existing Establishment Order until Mayor elected and in post. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
3	Mayor to appoint a Deputy from Constituents	To be contained in draft Order? No, but already in Primary Legislation. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
4	New non-constituents approved	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
5	Leader to be one of 2 Members appointed by Constituents	To be contained in draft Order? No – Cannot be specified in Order, however will be reflected in the Constitution. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
Mayor and Cabinet		
6	Portfolio leads for aspects of the WMCA's responsibilities	To be contained in draft Order? No – Cannot be specified in Order, however will be reflected in the Constitution. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
7	The Mayor will delegate to areas of Mayoral responsibility to Portfolio leads	To be contained in draft Order? No Cannot be specified in the Order. Portfolio roles will be reflected in CA Constitution, with the requirement that the Mayor has due consideration and regard to this. Scheme principles achieved? Yes

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Mayor and Cabinet		
8	The Cabinet will examine the Mayor's draft annual budget and plans, policies and strategies	<p>To be contained in draft Order? No – Budget requirements to be contained in a separate generic finance order for all Combined Authorities – WMCA will have the ability for 2/3rd to reject.</p> <p>the Leader of the Council be appraised of the generic finance Order,</p> <p>Plans, policies and strategies are not statutory therefore the ability to examine will be incorporated into the WMCA constitution,</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes (Partially)</p>
9	Mayor to be paid an allowance and set by an Independent Review Panel	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p>
10	Ability to appoint a Mayors Political Advisor	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p>
Voting		
11	Existing 2/3 and simple majority double lock voting to remain	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes, unless specified otherwise in the Order</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p>
12	Mayoral Functions	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p>
13	Mayoral WMCA functions in the Scheme will be subject to the 2/3 vote with the Mayor's vote 'for' in the 2/3	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p>
14	Current WMCA functions are not subject to the Mayor being in the 2/3 'for'	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p> <p>Unless affected by the Devo Deal in which case the Mayor would need to be part of the vote 'for'</p>

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Voting continued...		
15(a-f)	Unanimous voting by Constituent Members	Final position still under discussion, see report paragraph 6.0.
16	Any delegation of any CA function pursuant to S101 Local Government Act 1972 is a matter for the unanimous decision of the Constituent Members only	To be contained in draft Order? No Scheme principles achieved? No Decision taken by WMCA that this additional unanimous provision was going further than the establishment unanimous items and the devolution deal and therefore will not be pursued.
Overview and Scrutiny		
17	Government are proposing regulations to cover the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit arrangements	To be contained in draft Order? No Separate Regulation Scheme principles achieved? Yes. The CA original Establishment Order and Constitution will be amended to take account of these regulations.
18	No member of WMCA or any committee (other than O&S) can be a Member of O&SS	To be contained in draft Order? No. Already provided for in Primary Legislation Scheme principles achieved? Yes
Transport		
19 & 20	The powers and functions funded by the WMCA Transport levy will remain solely functions of the WMCA and not Mayoral.	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
21	Mayoral allocation of the devolved and consolidated multi-year capital budget	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes. The Mayor allocates the funding but will be required to have due regard to the maintenance requirements of the network. WMCA can reject the Mayors proposal if 2/3rds vote to do so. This will be in the Generic Finance Order

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Transport continued...		
22	Bus Service Operators Grant Allocation	To be contained in draft Order? No Scheme principles achieved? No Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) have agreed that providing they receive the agreed detail of the allocations to operators nothing further is required at this stage.
23	Additional Powers for Safer Travel Police on bus assets/ network	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes For Smoking and Anti-Social Behaviour. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) will be required with Constituent Councils
23	Bus Lane Contraventions	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes This will be held concurrently with Constituent Councils to enable a consistent approach. Day to day enforcement and fines to remain with Constituent Authorities. MoU's will be required with the Constituent Councils.
24	Bus Refranchising and Enhanced Partnerships	To be contained in draft Order? No Scheme principles achieved? No This will be provided for in the Buses Bill.
25	Statutory Definition of the Key Route Network	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Future Orders will amend the KRN and will need the consent of the Constituent Authorities. Scheme principles achieved? Yes This will be a Mayoral responsibility but with the statutory condition that the members and officers of the Combined Authority have to assist and is subject to the Mayor seeking the assistance of the members and officers of the CA.

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Transport continued...		
26a	S6 Highway Act ability to enter into agreement to undertake work on a trunk road or motorway for the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
26b	S8 Highway Act ability to enter into agreement to undertake work on a constituent authority road for the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
26c	S62 Highway Act ability to make improvements to the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? No Not required. The extent of the works will be laid out in the S6/8 Agreement Scheme principles achieved? Yes.
26d	Ability to be classed as a Highway Authority for the purposes of Diversionary Work contributions from Utility Companies and for the future development of Permit Schemes on the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
26e	Requirement to report to Secretary of State on traffic flows/ growth and reduction forecasts on the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
26f	Moving Traffic Violations eg 'box junction' cameras on the KRN	To be contained in draft Order? No deferred to be considered in next devolution deal. Scheme principles achieved? No
26	Promoting Road Safety	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes. MoU required

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Transport continued...		
27	Clean Air and Low Emission Zones concurrently with Constituent Authorities	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes</p> <p>The CA already have the ability to enforce this jointly with the local traffic authorities (constituent councils). In addition will have the duty to undertake air quality assessments and designate Air Quality Management Areas but 'in consultation with' the affected Constituent Councils. MoU required.</p>
HS2 Growth		
28-30	Combined Authority led Mayoral WMCA Development Corporation	<p>To be contained in draft Order? Yes</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes – though further drafting discussion required, as highlighted in Paragraph 6.0 of the report.</p>
31	Land Compensation disregard of certain development – to put us on same footing as Urban Development Company	<p>To be contained in draft Order? No</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? Yes Legislation to be repealed by new Neighbourhood Planning Bill.</p>
Skills		
32	Preparing for local Commissioning	No Powers required at this stage.
Employment		
34	Ability to assist people to train	<p>To be contained in draft Order? No</p> <p>Scheme principles achieved? No – deferred to be considered in the next devolution deal.</p>

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
More and Better Homes		
35 – 37	Objectives and Functions of HCA	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
38	Mayoral exercise of HCA CPO Powers is subject to the affected Constituent Members agreeing	To be contained in draft Order? Yes subject to the affected Constituent Members agreeing Scheme principles achieved? Yes
37	S23 Compensation exemption	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
Supporting and Attracting Business Innovation		
39	Government working to support the 3 LEP Integrated Business Support Ecosystem	No Powers required at this stage
Culture		
40	Ability to provide and support cultural activities and entertainment concurrently with constituent authorities	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
Data Sharing		
41-43	Sharing of various data sets for Skills, Employment, Environmental to assist with our Commissions	To be contained in draft Order? Partially – some data sets deferred. Scheme principles achieved? No DWP elements deferred to be considered in the next devolution deal.

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Mayoral Functions		
44	HCA CPO, with the consent of the appropriate authority(/ies) <i>(as at table item 38 above)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
44	Bus Service Operators Grant Allocation <i>(as a table item 22 above)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? No Scheme principles achieved? No TfWM have agreed that providing they receive the agreed detail of the allocations to operators nothing further is required at this stage.
44	Requirement to report to Secretary of State on traffic flows/ growth and reduction forecasts on the KRN <i>(as at table item 26e above)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
44	Mayoral Precept <i>(as at table item 50 below)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? No Will be included in the Finance Order Scheme principles achieved? Partially Mayoral Precept can only be used to fund Mayoral Functions.
44	Business Rate Supplement <i>(as at table item 53 below)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? No , but will be provided for in Local Growth and Jobs Bill expected to be laid in January 2017. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
44&45	Mayoral allocation of the devolved and consolidated multi-year capital budget <i>(as at table item 21 above)</i>	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes
44&46	Functional power of competence	To be contained in draft Order? Yes Scheme principles achieved? Yes

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Mayoral Functions continued...		
47	The ability of the Mayor to enter into a joint exercise arrangement for the exercise of Mayoral functions	To be contained in draft Order – No Scheme principles achieved – No Specific functions are required to be identified and will be the subject of future orders if necessary
48	The exercise of Mayoral functions	To be contained in the draft Order – No Scheme principles achieved – No It is for the Mayor to determine (within the statute) whether they wish to delegate functions.
Finance (these powers will be subject to a separate generic financial regulations order)		
49	Devolved investment Strategy	DCLG have reconfirmed Mayor can only contribute via their precept to those areas that are Mayoral functions.
50	Mayoral Precept	To be contained in draft Order? No To be contained in separate finance order. Scheme principles achieved? Partially, Mayoral Precept can only be used to fund Mayoral Functions.
51	Levy (Non Transport) on Constituent Authorities	To be contained in draft Order? No Separate finance order Scheme principles achieved? Yes
52	Non Transport Borrowing	To be contained in draft Order? No – no agreement by treasury at this stage for any Combined Authority, so nor in separate Generic Finance Order Scheme principles achieved? No

Scheme Paragraph	Scheme Proposal	Draft Order Proposal & Scheme compliance
Finance continued...		
53	Business Rate Supplement	To be contained in draft Order? No But will be provided for in Local Growth and Jobs Bill expected to be laid in January 2017. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
54	100% Business Rate Retention	To be contained in draft Order? No business rate pilot agreed. Scheme principles achieved? Yes
55	Work with Government to achieve Intermediate Body Status for GBS LEP	Awaiting clarification following Brexit
Sub Structure		
56	Ability for CA to have Committees/ Sub Committees	Nothing required in Order

Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Outcome of Autism Consultation and Final Autism Strategy
Decision designation	AMBER
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Adults
Key decision	Yes
In forward plan	Yes
Wards affected	All
Accountable director	Linda Sanders (People)
Originating service	Disabilities and Mental Health
Accountable employee(s)	Paul Smith, Interim Head of Commissioning Tel 01902 555318 Email paul.smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	PLT 12 September 2016 SEB 08 November 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of the revised strategy.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The feedback following consultation on the Joint Autism Strategy and the revision of the Strategy to take account of this.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the consultation on the draft Joint Autism Strategy for consideration by Cabinet and to seek approval to adopt the revised strategy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This Joint Autism strategy was developed by partners in education, health and social care in the city to make sure that children, young people and adults with autism get the same life chances as people who do not have autism.
- 2.2 Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition, it is a 'spectrum' disorder which means that individuals experience it differently and are affected in different ways. There are however some common challenges for people with autism. These include:
- social communication
 - social interaction
 - social imagination
- 2.3 Wolverhampton City Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are committed to commissioning high quality autism services and working with partner organisations to improve the lives and opportunities for children, young people and adults with autism.
- 2.4 The purpose of this strategy is to provide a clear plan outlining how support will be delivered in Wolverhampton and to identify objectives and actions which reflect local need and diversity, in line with the vision set out in the national "Think Autism Strategy" (2015).

"All children, adults and older adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents."

3.0 Draft Autism Strategy

- 3.1 The draft Autism Strategy was a high level document designed to highlight key strategic priorities for consultation. They were:-

Objective 1 - Information, advice and support

Objective 2 – Develop a clear and consistent pathway including post diagnostic support

Objective 3 – Increasing awareness and understanding of Autism

Objective 4 – Preparing for Adulthood

Objective 5 – Lifelong Learning, increasing skills and inclusive employment

Objective 6 - Keeping Healthy

Objective 7 - Living well and increasing independence (Keeping Safe, Criminal Justice, Housing Support)

Objective 8 - Support for Families, Parents and Carers

- 3.2 These 8 Strategic Objectives formed the basis for our consultation and further explanation of these themes were available at the different consultation events.
- 3.3 Following agreement by Cabinet to begin a twelve-week consultation period a consultation plan was developed with key stakeholders. Consultation commenced on 7 June, and ended on 30 August 2016.
- 3.4 The full consultation report is available [here](#). An Executive Summary of the consultation report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 A variety of methods were used to share consultation information and to receive feedback. These included including paper-based consultation packs, emails, web-based applications including Survey Monkey, telephone calls, and the opportunity to contribute at two public meetings. Some targeted workshops also took place, for example to encourage the views of families at a local special school, and a specific workshop with ASPIC (Association of Specialist Provision in the City) members. An all-day drop-in shop was also held in a city-centre shopping centre.
- 3.6 Information about the consultation and associated resources was uploaded to the schools' website system 'The Cloud'; it was also uploaded to Wolverhampton Information Network (WIN) and the Council's internal and public websites and social media outlets Wolverhampton Today. A press release was issued by the Communications Department on 13 June 2016.
- 3.7 Information was circulated twice by email to 152 representatives at a variety of organisations and groups. This included the Commissioning Support Unit which supports Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). E-bulletins were also sent out by Youth Organising Wolverhampton (YOW), Wolverhampton Information, Advice & Support Service and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC).

4.0 Outcome of Consultation

4.1 The consultation feedback told us that:

- More information is needed about the range of health, education, social care, leisure, employment and training opportunities available and that its provided in a variety of formats and held in a central place.

The Joint Autism Strategy has been amended to include the need to widen the scope of Wolverhampton Information network (WIN) and the Local Offer (SEND) and that the information is to be made available in different formats where possible.

- There is a need for better early identification and support post diagnosis, including review and follow up to ensure that people are receiving the right support.

The Joint Autism Strategy has been amended to include that we will commission a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) compliant diagnostic pathway for children, young people and adults, and to ensure that referrers have information about how to support a person who has received /or has not received a diagnosis, and their family.

- There is a need for more training for providers of services to children, young people and adults with autism, and for this training to include education, further education, employers, criminal justice services, health, community services and leisure.

The Joint Autism Strategy has been amended to ensure that various levels of training are developed and delivered, including a specialist autism programme to increase awareness across all relevant agencies and enable key professionals to recognise, assess and support people with autism.

- There is a need for opportunities for parents and carers to receive training, particularly in relation to positive behavioural support, and accessing education and employment.

The Joint Autism Strategy has been amended to include sufficient and consistent access to specialist support services, including outreach and therapies, for all children and young people with autism and their families who attend all educational settings.

- There is a need for consistent opportunities for children, young people and adults to contribute to service development and change, and to be meaningfully included as equal partners in decisions about their care, support and future.

The Joint Autism Strategy includes the need to make sure that the parents and carers of people with autism are encouraged and supported to influence and shape future services and to be fully engaged in the coproduction of the Implementation Plan to deliver this strategy as well as future commissioning of Autism provision.

- There is a need for transition to be fully recognised as a challenging time for young people and their families, and for additional support to be provided to help families to transition between children's' and adult services.

The Joint Autism Strategy has at its heart that all young people on the autistic spectrum who are preparing for adulthood should have access to quality

assured work experience to help them prepare for their transition into further education employment or training and the support to live independently should they choose as well as living healthy and exciting lives.

- There is a need for clear partnership working between different organisations so that a family's experience of care and support is consistent and seamless.

The Joint Autism Strategy recognises the strong Partnership working in the City and that Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are committed to commissioning high quality autism services. working with partner organisations, to improving the lives and opportunities for children, young people and adults with autism.

- There is a need for on-going commitment to proactively reviewing care and support plans, and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCs).

The Joint Autism Strategy reflects this ambition but has been amended to include that young people on the autistic spectrum and who are not in receipt of an Education Health and Care plan are identified early and are fully supported to maximize their potential.

- There is a commitment to ensure that people with autism can access the full range of services and support available to the general population, with good and timely access to specialist services where appropriate.

The Joint Autism Strategy includes reference to WIN and the Local Offer as the vehicle to deliver this ambition.

- There is a need for an autism champion to be appointed within the City.

The Joint Autism Strategy includes the need for an Autism Action Alliance preferably with an Independent Chair who would be the Autism Champion for the City.

- There is a need for more autism friendly venues within the City – which take account of sensory issues – so that people with autism can participate more fully in everyday opportunities, and can manage sensory difficulties relating to their autism more positively when attending appointments.

This ambition would form part of the agenda for the Autism Action Alliance in the City very much replicating the work of the Wolverhampton Dementia Action Alliance.

- There is a need for more evidence of reasonable adjustments being made to support people with autism leading active, contributing lives in their communities.

The Joint Autism Strategy includes the need for people with autism to live healthy, active lives and contribute to the communities in which they live.

- There is a need for more creative, person-specific alternatives to traditional care and support models; for example, the ability to offer blood collection at schools, creating personalised breaks.

The Joint Autism Strategy recognises the need for future service design to be coproduced with children, young people and their families as well as professionals, for example our specialist schools, to encourage creativity in future service models.

- There should be support for advocacy across the range of settings and services.

The Joint Autism Strategy identifies Connexions as the source of advocacy support across a range of settings and services.

- The need to cross reference the Key themes of the Autism Strategy to the CAMHS Transformation Plan, the All Age Disability Strategy and the Black Country Transformation Care Plan (adults and children).

The Joint Autism Strategy's Implementation Plan will include this as a key action for those Lead Commissioners who have responsibility for these themes.

4.2 A copy of the finalised Joint Autism Strategy is available [here](#). It is our intention to develop a co-produced Implementation Plan to deliver the key themes of the Strategy with a target date of April 2017 for changes to go live.

4.3 The Joint Autism Strategy will be reported at the Clinical Commissioning Group's Commissioning Committee on the 24 November 2016 and at its Governing Board on the 10 January 2017.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. However, financial plans will need to be developed as part of the development of the implementation plan (due to be developed in co-production with children, young people and their parent/carers by December 2016). It is anticipated that the delivery of the new strategy will be within the existing financial resources.

[GS/21112016/F]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 This strategy supports the City Council and the CCG in the delivery of their statutory duties in relation to the Autism Act 2009 and the supporting national “Think Autism Strategy” 2015. RB/09112016/M

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are equalities implications associated with this report as it relates to disabled children, young people and adults. An Equalities Analysis is being updated taking into account the consultation feedback.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implication’s associated with this report

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Cabinet Report – Consultation on the Joint Autism Strategy, 24 February 2016

Appendix One - Autism Provision: Consultation on the draft Joint Autism Strategy 2016 – 2021 Consultation Report – Executive Summary

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Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Review of Fostering Fees and Allowances Scheme	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett	
Originating service	People	
Accountable employee(s)	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Head of Service – Looked After Children 01902 55 Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	PLT SEB Cabinet	16 Sept 2016 25 Oct 2016 30 Nov 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed changes to the Fostering Fees and Allowances scheme in light of the review.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Local authorities are responsible for Looked After Children. Where a child is placed in foster care, the cost of caring for the child is paid to the foster carer in the form of a Fostering Allowance.
- 1.2 The requirement for local authorities to be responsible for this is underpinned in the following legislation:
 - Children Act 1989
 - Children Act 2008
 - Fostering Regulations 2011
 - Family & Friends Guidance 2011
 - Children Leaving Care Act 2000
 - Care Planning and Placement Review Regulations 2013
 - Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011
- 1.3 Wolverhampton's new scheme was approved in October 2015 and implemented from January 2016.
- 1.4 Since implementation in January 2016 we have received a number of concerns from carers on some common themes. This prompted some wider consultation and a review of the scheme six months into implementation.
- 1.5 Consultation involved writing out to all foster carers and asking them to feedback any benefits or negatives of the new scheme since it has been implemented. Senior Managers also consulted with carers at a Foster Carers Forum meeting.

2.0 Foster Carers Feedback

2.1 Benefits of the new scheme

- 2.1.1 Feedback from carers indicated the following as benefits of the new scheme since its implementation:
 - Clothing Allowance being more flexible with greater discretion for the foster carer
 - Savings Allowance being more flexible to allow for specific holidays or items
 - The fee for one child is much more comparative to Independent Fostering Agencies

2.2 Negative impact of the new scheme

- 2.2.1 Feedback from carers indicated the following issues as having a negative impact since the implementation of the new scheme:
 - No incentive when you have been fostering for a number of years
 - Expenses for car parking/ travel costs whilst training is leaving carers out of pocket now the training fee has been removed

- Crèche facilities - no facilities available for carers during training now Heanton is no longer providing a Foster Carer Support Contract
- Lack of emergency placement allowance when a child arrives with no belongings
- Holiday fee – is not enough to take a child during main holiday weeks
- Respite arrangements – why are carers not entitled to a break
- Scheme not financially beneficial where 4 children or more are placed
- Lack of retainer when the Local Authority don't have a Looked After Child to place
- Need for a retainer when the Local Authority plan to place a child or young person

3.0 Proposals/responses to the Consultation Feedback

3.1 No incentive for the number of years a carer serves

The new scheme is based on rewarding carers for the skills and knowledge they provide to Looked After Children (LAC) in Wolverhampton. This is to enable our foster carer population to be varied enough to care for the wide ranging needs our LAC present.

3.2 Training

As part of continuous professional development, foster carers are expected to attend training and pay the associated expenses. Most training is held in local venues where car parking is free.

3.3 Crèche Facilities

In response to the concerns carers are expressing about crèche facilities we encourage carers to use their family and friend networks to provide care to the LAC whilst they attend training, etc. Where this is a difficulty for carers, they are expected to discuss this with their supervising social worker. A delegated authority refresher training session will be provided to all carers to ensure they are fully utilising their delegated authority powers.

3.4 Emergency Placements

Where a child is placed in an emergency with no belongings the carer will be provided with a one off £100 fee to allow them to provide essentials to the child or young person.

3.5 Holiday Fee

It is proposed to remain with the two week holiday fee as the current policy stands. As the enhanced allowance per child includes a holiday element, carers are expected to save from the child's allowance to pay for holidays, and where required will be supported to budget from their Supervising Social Workers.

3.6 Respite Arrangements

It is proposed to continue with the Policy that carers will only be provided with respite under exceptional circumstances. However, to support carers we are going to ensure the Policy is clear on what we mean by exceptional circumstances and also review our Delegated Authority Policy/training to enable carers to fully utilise their family networks.

Respite arrangements will be provided where outlined as part of a Care Plan linked to the specific needs of a child.

3.7 Carers taking four or more children

It is proposed to pay carers who take four or more children a 30% increase for the fourth child and any subsequent children, to encourage carers to take larger sibling groups and ensure the scheme is equitable for them.

Level	Training (basic)	Assessment	Fee (1 child) £'s	Fee (2 children)) £'s	Fee (3 children)) £'s	Fee (4+ children)) £'s
One (Basic)	Skills to Foster Completion of training, support and development standards Attendance at support groups	Form C assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	85	102	119	154.70
Two (Generic)	Completed Level One Skills to Foster Personal Development Plan outcomes focused	Form F assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	255	306	357	464.10

Level	Training (basic)	Assessment	Fee (1 child) £'s	Fee (2 children) £'s	Fee (3 children) £'s	Fee (4+ children) £'s
Three (Advanced)	Completed all of Level One & Two Diploma in Child Care Studies/Fostering Or working towards equivalent	Form F Assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	331.50	397.70	463.40	602.42
Four (Specialist)	Completed all of Levels One, Two and Three.	Form F assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	600	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.8 Retainer when we don't have a Looked After Child to place

In the circumstance when we do not have a child to place with a carer, the carer is responsible for notifying their Supervising Social Worker immediately. A retainer of 50% of their fostering fee will be paid for a maximum of four weeks.

3.9 Retainer when we plan to place a child or young person

Where the Council is planning to place a looked after child or young person we will pay a retainer of 50% of the fostering fee for up to two weeks from the point of approving the planned placement until the child is placed.

3.10 If approved, it is proposed that these changes will be incorporated into the current Fostering Fees and Allowance Scheme and the associated procedure.

3.11 Council Wide Incentives

Work is continuing with the Corporate Parenting Strategy Group to progress the following incentives:

- Reduction in Council Tax for Fostering Households within Wolverhampton.
Initial discussions have taken place as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

- Reduction in the cost of the use of Council leisure facilities:
This has been progressed as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. In principle agreement has been given to extend the WV Active staff discount offer to foster carers

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 Where a child is placed in an emergency with no belongings the carer will be provided with a one off £100 fee to allow them to provide essentials to the child or young person. Based on 2015/16 it is estimated that 15 carers would be eligible to receive the one off £100 fee, on this basis the annual additional cost would be £1,500.
- 4.2 Four carers would currently be eligible to receive a 30% increase fee for placements of four or more children. One of those carer's is a mainstream level two carer who would attract an additional £5,600 per annum, and three carers are family and friends level one carers who would attract an additional £1,900 each per annum.
- 4.3 In the circumstance when the Council do not have a child to place with a carer, a retainer of 50% of their fostering fee will be paid for a maximum of four weeks. Given the Children's Services transformation work it is not anticipated that any carers will be a position not to have a child placed with them.
- 4.4 Where the Council is planning to place a looked after child or young person, a retainer of 50% of the fostering fee for up to two weeks will be paid from the point of approving the planned placement until the child is placed. Based on 2015/16 it is estimated that 15 carers would be eligible to receive this fee. It is assumed that the 15 carers would be paid the retainer fee at the level two. On this basis, this would attract an additional cost of £3,800 per annum.
- 4.5 The total additional estimated cost of the proposals in paragraph 4.1 to 4.4 is £16,600 per annum, which will be funded from within the Looked after Children's Service.
[NM/11112016/F]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal Services have been consulted on the changes . The risks involved in making the changes have been considered . There are no immediate direct legal implications arising from the changes.
[TC/18102016/Z]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The proposals on the attached do not affect the original Equality Impact Assessment.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications from this Policy.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resource implications from this Policy.

9.0 Schedule of background paper

Cabinet Report 21 October 2015: Proposed new fostering fees and allowances scheme

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Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Extensions/Alterations to Foster Carers' own Properties	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Service Director Children & Young People	
Originating service	Children & Young People	
Accountable employee(s)	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Head of Service Looked After Children 01902 55 Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Cabinet	16.9.16 8.11.16 30.11.16

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Service Director for Children and Young People to approve extensions and adaptations to foster carers own properties up to the value of £50,000; to the Strategic Director for People for between £50,000 to £100,000; and over £100,000 to Cabinet Resources Panel in line with the review of the Constitution.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Securing permanence options for Looked after Children (LAC) is a key priority for the Children and Young People's Service.
- 1.2 Research and evidence supports the fact that Looked after Children who can live in secure settled permanent family environments will experience better outcomes not only in childhood but also in their adult life. Schofield and Beck (2005) evidence that placement instability impacts on a child's ability to develop secure attachments and this exacerbates behavioural and emotional difficulties. Additionally, Ward (2009) found that children with a high number of placement changes fared worse in psychological, social and academic outcomes. The Care Enquiry 2013 concluded that high quality lasting relationships are imperative as a child, to support the capacity to form relationships as an adult.
- 1.3 To secure permanence for Looked after Children through to adulthood, can occasionally require additional support from the local authority. On occasions, foster carers may require financial support to extend or adapt their own home in order to offer placements, particularly in the case of sibling groups and more often when children are being placed with extended family (connected persons) foster carers.
- 1.4 There have been two occasions recently where by the City of Wolverhampton Council has been asked to financially support the cost of extensions to foster carers' homes. On both of these occasions this has enabled children to be placed within their own birth family network on a permanent basis. Without the financial support for an extension to the home environment, the children would not have been able to experience the opportunity of living within their extended family on a permanent basis.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 In order to formally support these opportunities going forward, the City of Wolverhampton Council requires a clear policy and procedure detailing the appropriate response to requests for financial support for extensions or alterations to foster carers' homes.
- 2.2 Consultation has taken place with colleagues within the City of Wolverhampton Council to ensure the policy meets planning, procurement, legal and financial regulations.
- 2.3 The proposed policy provides a clear criteria and pathway for decision making relating to the suitability of the requirement for the extension and/or alteration, and the decision making process regarding authorisation for the financial support. The procedure also addresses the requirement for this arrangement to be underpinned by a legal contract.
- 2.4 Foster carers who receive this level of support will be encouraged and supported to secure the placement of the children permanently through an appropriate order, such as a Special Guardianship Order, Adoption Order or Child Arrangement Order. This would enable the child/children to cease to be looked after and instead be brought up without

the intervention of social care services. When giving consideration to requests for financial support for extensions the age of the child and sustainability of the placement until adulthood will be given due consideration.

- 2.5 The proposal is seeking approval for Cabinet Resources Panel (CRP) to delegate authority for amounts up to £50,000 to the Service Director for Children and Young People for extensions/alterations to foster carers' own properties.
- 2.6 For amounts between £50,000 and £100,000 it is proposed that authority will be delegated to the Strategic Director for People. Approval from CRP will be required for amounts over £100,000 in line with the review of the constitution.
- 2.7 The cost of preparing and approving plans for foster carers' own properties will be covered as part of the City of Wolverhampton's Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- 2.8 The Children and Young Person's Service area has developed a procedure to support the implementation of this policy, outlining the key steps that needs to be taken in order to seek approval for funding an extension/alteration to a foster carer's property.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The annual approved budget for 2016/17 for extensions/alterations to Foster Carers' own properties is £136,000 and is held within the Fostering Service. Any work approved will need to be contained within this budget.
- 3.2 The levels of delegation requested are set out in the table below:

Delegation Level	Amount
Service Director for Children and Young People	Up to £50,000
Strategic Director for People	Between £50,000 and £100,000
Cabinet Resources Panel	Over £100,000

[NM/17102016/T]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are contained in the body of the policy .
- 4.2 In addition agreements of this nature are made in accordance with the provisions of Section 17(6) and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. Where a child is assessed as having certain needs, the local authority should meet those needs through the provision of services to secure the welfare of the child. The range of services that the local authority can provide

are not prescribed or limited to any list and essentially local authorities can provide anything which they consider necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.

- 4.3 Under section 17(6) the services provided by a local authority in the exercise of function conferred on them by this section may include providing accommodation and giving assistance in kind or in cash.
[TC/08092016/K]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no corporate landlord implications. Property Services have been consulted with, and contributed to the proposed new policy and procedure.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 There are no background papers.

Cabinet Meeting

30 November 2016

Report title	Improving Outcomes within the Early Years	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Key decision	Amber	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Children and Young People	
Accountable employee(s)	Andrew Wolverson	Head of Service – Early Intervention
	Tel	01902 551272
	Email	Andrew.wolverson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Alex Jones	Assistant Director Schools Standards
	Tel	01902 555275
	Email	Alex.jones2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	People leadership Team	31 October 2016
	Strategic Executive Board	15 November 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. To approve that consultation commence on the draft Early Years Strategy with stakeholders as part of the City's approach to improving outcomes within the early years.

Recommendation(s) for noting:

Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The City's Definition of School Readiness contained within the strategy will be consulted upon as part of this process.
2. Consultation will take place with stakeholders through written and face to face briefings and the completion of Survey Monkey questionnaires. Parents' views will be captured face to face, as much as is possible, utilising the Parent Champions and the Universal Practitioner.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet on the progress made toward developing a draft Early Years Strategy which will improve outcomes for children and families from conception to age five.

2.0 Background and Rationale

- 2.1 The report submitted to the Executive Team in June 2016 sought agreement for the development of an Early Years strategy, as part of the next phase of the re-design of Early Intervention and Prevention.
- 2.2 In order to secure rapid and sustained improvement of outcomes for children within the early years, the Early Years Strategy would identify and outline key activity during the child's life from conception to five years and what needs to be developed to support improvement.
- 2.3 Partners would support this transformation through involvement in a project group and themed task and finish groups with transformation delivered through a framework of eight early year's forums.
- 2.4 These forums will be co-terminus with existing learning communities, bringing together early intervention and prevention, education, health, parent champions and other partners that come into contact with pregnant women through to statutory school age children. These forums would provide robust peer challenge to drive improvement.
- 2.5 The report also highlighted the need to establish a city wide data collection system to gather data at key points in a child's life so that all partners understand the key areas for improvement within early years.
- 2.6 Resource was also approved to support settings in embedding a consistent approach to using good assessment and data as a tool for accelerating children's progress.
- 2.7 The recommendation that any future commissioning of health visiting should set a clear expectation of them having the key function of supporting parents to understand child development was also endorsed.

3.0 Local Context

- 3.1 Wolverhampton currently has 64 schools and 48 Private, Voluntary and Independent settings delivering nursery education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, 88% of which are judged as good or outstanding.
- 3.2 The City strives through the work of the Early Help Service and School Improvement and Standards Team, to ensure that schools, settings, childminders and all early year's providers are delivering high quality early year's experiences. The Ofsted ratings for the

city continue to rise annually and the figures shown below for all providers within the City demonstrates this growth.

Provider type	Good	Outstanding	Awaiting Inspection
Childminders	69%	19%	0%
Playgroups	54%	0%	36%
Day nurseries	63%	17%	12%
Nursery schools	43%	57%	0%

- 3.3 Within primary schools who have received a separate judgement for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), 70% of schools are judged to be good or outstanding.
- 3.4 However, the statutory assessment outcomes at the end of the key stage Early Year's Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) do not reflect these judgments as although Wolverhampton's % of children achieving a good level of development (GLD) continues to rise annually; we do not meet the national % GLD. Provisional data for 2016 shows Wolverhampton achieved a GLD of 63%, a shortfall of 6% against the national figure of 69%.
- 3.5 This provides a compelling argument for ensuring our early years offer is supporting the long term outcomes of children and ultimately building an economically active population.
- 4.0 Progress**
- 4.1 A multi- agency project group has been established to oversee the development of the Early Years Strategy with all partners represented. The project group identified the themes it wished to address and time limited task and finish groups were established to develop outcome focused action plans.
- 4.2 The strategy and action plans outline what the outcomes will be for parents and children in each of these areas, the responsibilities of early year's professionals and the tasks that will need to be carried out.
- 4.3 The strategy also includes case studies of good and effective intervention and practice and aims to build upon the many examples of good work within the early years sector, improving it and embedding it so that all children regardless of their early year's journey experiences the best possible start.
- 4.4 The four themes the project group identified were
- 4.4.1 Good Maternal Health: This theme focuses on ensuring there is a consistency of approach to the delivery of Health services for families with a clear pathway from conception to age five, outlining what families can expect from professional services.

- 4.4.2 Parental Engagement: This theme focuses on developing the provision of universal services for families in order to support parental engagement in services and improve parenting skills.
- 4.4.3 High Quality Education: This theme focuses on developing high quality education ensuring that all children have access to high quality pre-school experiences which will enhance and improve their outcomes.
- 4.4.4 Workforce Development: This theme focuses on challenging and supporting schools to provide the best education for children and young people through developing a highly skilled early year's workforce with strong and effective leadership.
- 4.5 A draft definition of School Readiness has been developed to support providers in their work with children and families prior to their attending statutory education and most importantly to support children in their learning journey.
- “Children will be able to express their needs, feelings and wants. A school will ensure that children feel heard and understood by their practitioners. Children will be excited, enthused and demonstrate a willingness to learn both inside and outside of the classroom”.***
- 4.6 This definition will be consulted upon with parents, providers and partners over the coming weeks.
- 4.7 Data Collection remains a challenge for early years. In order to understand the impact the strategy will have on outcomes, a robust system for the collection, analysis, sharing and use of data is being established. The system for collection needs to be simple, effective and produce useful data that supports tracking of outcomes at a number of levels, city, locality, setting and child.
- 4.8 System change is also crucial and the next phase of integrating the council's offer is the requirement for partners to effect change in order to achieve whole system change.

5.0 Success Measures

- 5.1 A comprehensive performance framework is being developed as part of the strategy to measure its success. Some high level indicators of success have been established to drive the strategy developments which are set out below:
- 5.1.1 As a minimum, by the academic year 2017/18, children will attain in line with national expectations within the foundation stage. The gap between those children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium compared to those not receiving Early Years Pupil Premium will be less than 10%.
- 5.1.2 A robust transition protocol, including sharing of data, will be established by the end of the 2016/17 academic year.

5.2 Early Years forums have been established and are now operational from the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year with a clear programme for improving outcomes.

6.0 Challenge and Feedback

6.1 The strategy will be performance managed internally by the Education Board and externally by the Strengthening Families Board and the Children's Trust Board.

6.2 At its meeting in September 2016 the Children's Trust Board as part of its spotlighting process, received a report and presentation on the Early Years Strategy. The Board uses the spotlighting process to look in more depth at issues that are of interest to all partners and has on its forward plan a number of cross cutting pieces of work.

6.3 With regard to this strategy, the Board also has a challenge and monitoring role and used this agenda item to perform that function as well as noting the progress to date. Feedback from the Board was positive.

7.0 Next Steps

7.1 From the point of conception through to the first day at school, parents, babies and young children have regular contact with a range of different services including midwifery, Health Visiting, General Practitioners (GPs), children centres, childcare and early education provision.

7.2 Getting this contact and the services right in these critical years is crucial for ensuring that parents at risk of struggling with their young children are supported sufficiently and that all babies and children are given the best possible start in life. All partners have a role to play in this approach.

7.3 Health Services: Public Health is currently developing the tender specification for the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme through Health Visiting. Part of the national specification for Health Visitors is that they have 5 key contacts from the ante-natal period until the child is 2 ½ years old. As experts in child development and the only service mandated to have contact with all children under five, it is imperative that the commissioning specification is developed with the aim of empowering parents to support their child's learning and development from birth. Building upon the pathway currently in place the new specification aims to clearly set out what the expectations are in respect of parent education during the five key contacts.

7.4 A current key contact is the 2–2 ½ year development check. Early Intervention and Prevention and Health Visiting colleagues have worked together to develop an integrated two year old assessment for all children accessing two year old funded nursery places. This aims to bring together the development checks undertaken by Health Visitors and summative judgements by early years providers in one easy to understand report for a parent that helps them understand where their child is at in terms of development. This will

engage parents in their child's learning through clearly communicating what the next steps are for a child and how they can support them.

- 7.5 Early Years Services: As part of the recent transformation programme re-design a team of universal services officers have been retained. This team will be central to supporting the targeting of identified groups of children and parents and delivering one to one and group interventions with the explicit remit of supporting parents understanding of child development and how they can support their child's progress. This will be achieved through modelling interventions as well as providing access to high quality information.
- 7.6 There are already many high quality early years practitioners across the City who are supporting other members of the childcare workforce to develop their skills within provisions but more needs to be done. Research demonstrates that inspirational practitioners' providing stimulating and challenging environments supports children in accelerating their learning.
- 7.7 Schools and childcare providers will be challenged and supported to deliver the best education they can for children and young people. Model environments will focus on strengthening leadership and management with progress monitored during quality support visits. A highly skilled early years workforce with strong and effective leadership and management will raise the quality of learning environments ensuring that settings receive either good or outstanding Ofsted judgements.
- 7.8 Through the promotion of focused early years forums the workforce will be supported to share and disseminate good practice, building effective working relationships with other partners such as Wolverhampton University, City of Wolverhampton College and Adult Education Services, to provide a consistent approach in developing high quality early years practice. Regular monitoring of the quality of early years practitioners entering the workforce and maintaining a continuous cycle of staff development within provision, will assist in ensuring the stability and quality of practitioners.
- 7.9 Parental Engagement: A parent champion programme has recently been established within the Early Intervention Service in close working partnership with the Adult Education Service to develop a six week induction programme covering role and expectations, communication and safeguarding. Eight volunteers have been recruited with the main role at present to promote the benefits of 2 year nursery provision and to support parents in choosing a setting for their child.
- 7.10 The key role for the parent champion programme will be developing a network of parents who are willing to provide a peer support role to other parents with the aim of developing their confidence in parenting. It is envisaged that the current parent champions will support parents in making choices about selecting a setting for their child and what to look for, promoting the benefits of nursery education and act as an advocate for parent child interactions such as reading together. The parent champions will also be instrumental in guiding parents to access community resources and building wider community networks which support resilience within families.

- 7.11 Economic Services: Wolverhampton is a City where economic growth and prosperity is a top priority for the Council and its partners. Across the city there is over £3.6 billion investment either on site or planned, which in turn will support thousands of new jobs. The City is home to global players such as UTC Aerospace Systems, Moog, Jaguar Land Rover, TATA Steel and Carillion, who also play an integral part of the local economy. The City's wider business base has increasingly diversified and Wolverhampton is now currently home to over 8,000 companies across a broad spectrum of industries. There is no shortage of opportunity in Wolverhampton; the biggest concern now is to ensure that employers can attract the skilled labour they want and that local people benefit from the opportunities available to them.
- 7.12 In order to compete in the labour market, and progress in the world of work, local people need the education, skills and determination to succeed. The statistics show that currently many local people struggle. The early years are crucial in fulfilling Wolverhampton's ambition when the foundations for this growth can be robustly laid. Families can also be supported to develop their skills and their opportunities for employment.
- 7.13 The delivery landscape is confusing and difficult to navigate, for both residents and businesses and therefore a single portal where residents and businesses can access information on jobs and skills has been established. The Wolverhampton Work Box will be a virtual system offering a single point of access where families can complete basic skills self-assessments, and access careers advice.
- 7.14 Job brokerage will be offered to parents and carers to enable easier access to jobs. There will be improved access to relevant skills for people and businesses to ensure there are effective opportunities in place for those furthest from the labour market to gain qualifications, soft skills, work experience, volunteering, on the job training and obtain basic skills in numeracy and literacy.
- 7.15 A coordinated city wide apprenticeships offer is also being developed. This will support business growth, raise skills levels and boost progression rates and earnings. Through collaboration, apprenticeships will become a very significant investment tool to drive growth and support the health of key local sectors as well as provide quality work based routes for young people into a range of exciting careers in the local area.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 The approved budget for 2016/17 for the Early Years Service is £496,000.
- 8.2 Any costs associated with the development of the Early Years Strategy will be contained within this budget allocation.
[NM/22112016/Q]

9.0 Legal implications

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

[Legal Code: TS/22112016/A]

10.0 Equalities implications

10.1 Ensuring that every child gets the best start in life has been a key aspiration outlined within early years policy for the past 10 years. The proposals set out within this report seek to ensure that no child, regardless of background, is disadvantaged in the educational outcomes they are able to secure.

11.0 Environmental implications

11.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

12.0 Human resources implications

12.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

13.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 11 November 2015 Cabinet Meeting - Children Services Re-design
24 February 2016 Cabinet Meeting - Children Services Re-design.

This report is PUBLIC
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Early Years Strategy 2017-21



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V

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VISION

“ Working effectively together to make sure that every child in their early years has the opportunity to be the best they can be”



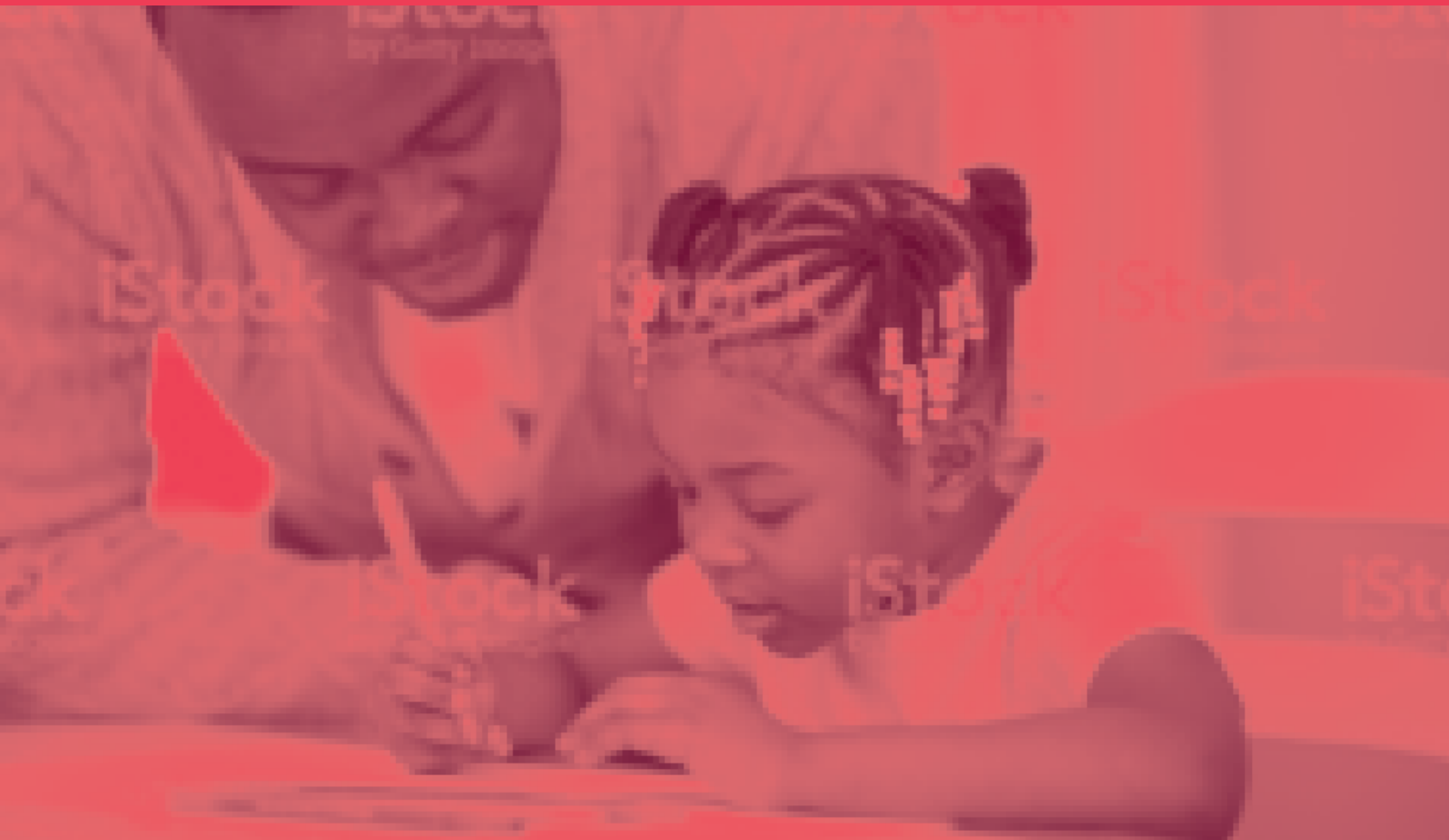
1

Introduction



From the point of conception through to the first day at school, parents, babies and young children have regular contact with a range of different services including midwifery, health visiting, GPs, children centres, childcare and early education provision.

Getting this contact and these services right in these critical years is crucial to ensure that parents are supported sufficiently and that all babies and children are given the best possible start in life.



An effective Early Years Strategy needs to be based on the assumption that parents are the first educator and ensure that there is a robust system in place to support them in this vital role.

Research shows social class, income, living conditions and parent's own education levels are directly related to child development outcomes. However, the quality of the early home learning environment (from birth) acts as a significant modifying factor. All parents can enhance their child's progress if they engage regularly in activities that encourage positive social development and thinking.

Children with strong early home learning environments are ahead in both social and cognitive development at the age of three. They show advanced language ability, higher levels of confidence, co-operation and sociability, and this advantage continues as they progress through school.

Services need to be focused on delivering an approach that is underpinned by the need for parents to develop good parenting skills. This will provide the basis for them to have an understanding of how a child learns and ensure that they are an active participant in their child's brain development, enabling the child to become an active learner with a strong attachment and healthy relationships.



Whilst parents must be recognised as the child's first educator, this strategy recognises the impact that access to high quality education can have in improving outcomes for children. Research shows us that access to high quality educational experiences can have a significant impact on the outcomes a child achieves. This strategy has a strong focus on accelerating children's learning within early year's settings and building upon the good and outstanding provision that exists within Wolverhampton.

For the purpose of this strategy school readiness is defined as:

“Children will be able to express their needs, feelings and wants. A school will ensure that children feel heard and understood by their practitioners. Children will be excited, enthused and demonstrate a willingness to learn both inside and outside of the classroom”.



2

Guiding principles

In Wolverhampton we know how important it is for children to be happy and confident, secure and safe, and able to achieve their full potential.

We want to ensure that all children living in Wolverhampton have an equal chance to have a really good start in life including supporting them to have a good level of development when they start school.



Wolverhampton is committed to:

- Putting the best interests of the child at the heart of decision making.
- Taking a holistic approach to the wellbeing of a child.
- Working with children, young people and their families on ways to improve wellbeing.
- Advocating preventative work and early intervention to support children, young people and their families.
- Believing professionals must work together in the best interests of the child.



We will:

- Work with families to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes, safely preventing family breakdown.
- Deliver a whole system approach, enabling close working with partners with clarity on roles and responsibilities.
- Build employee confidence and skills, and empower and support to work creatively and innovatively with families.
- Provide affordability and enable the financial sustainability of children's services in the future.

3

National context



It is now recognised that the earliest years of a child's life can have an important impact on his or her long-term development. These are formative years, physiologically, cognitively, socially and emotionally.

For a child to flourish and fulfil their potential, they need their environment to provide them with specific types of support from conception to the age of five. The parent or primary caregiver is the most important part of a child's environment, and attachment has long been recognised as a key factor in positive child development.

“Disadvantage is an unfavourable circumstance or condition that reduces the chances of success or effectiveness”

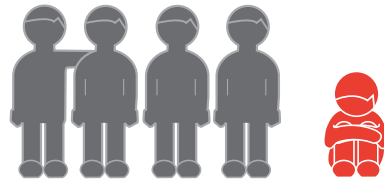
Oxford English Dictionary





Children not reaching expected level in language and communication skills

1:4



Children failing to reach expected level in personal, social and emotional development

1:5

£  Across the UK, figures indicate that children from the poorest 30% of neighbourhoods are: 

-11 **11 percentage points** less likely than their peers to reach the expected level in communication and language... 

£££  £ 

-9

...they are also **9 percentage points** less likely to reach the expected level in personal, social and emotional development.



Primary school pupils achieving a “good level of development”



Pupils eligible for free school meals

Other pupils

The EYFS data also show 45 per cent of primary school pupils eligible for free school meals achieved a “good level of development” compared with 64 per cent of other pupils –

a 19 percentage point gap.



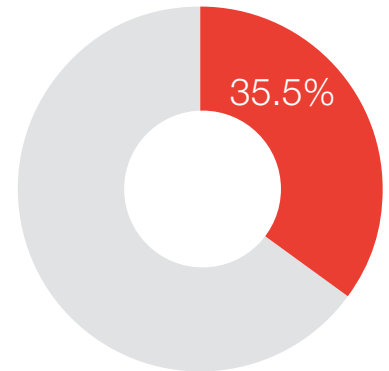
Research found that better childhood behaviour was associated with a number of improved outcomes in later life, including income and aspects of mental health and well-being.

Language development - one of the earliest areas of cognitive development and an important stepping-stone to future success - is also influenced by parents or caregivers. If adults talk with children effectively - taking the lead from the child, elaborating on what they say, asking questions, sharing rhymes or songs or books - then children are given the best start in developing the cognitive tools they need to succeed at school.

4

Local context

● Percentage of population who are from BME communities



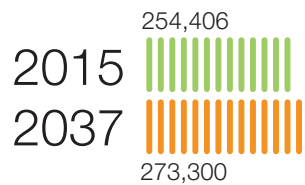
Wolverhampton has a population of 254,406 (mid-year 2015 estimate) and is proud of the diversity that this encompasses, with 35.5% of its residents from BME communities.

The population is predicted to grow by 8.9% by 2037, to 273,300, with the aged 19 or below cohort expected to increase by 7%.

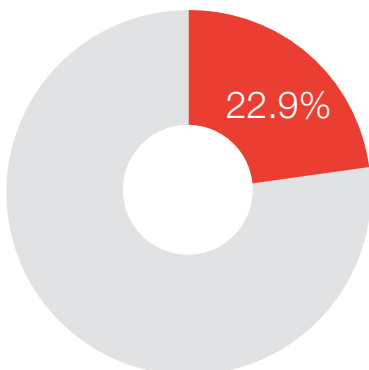
Indices of Deprivation 2010

RANKED NO. **20**

Predicted Population



● Percentage of population who are children (aged 0-17) living in Wolverhampton



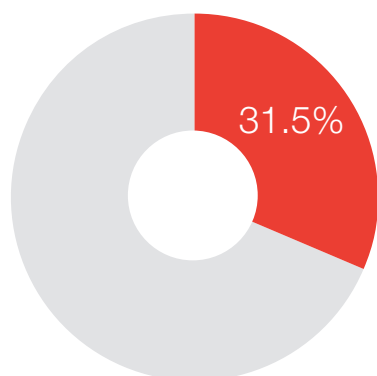
A total of 58,167 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Wolverhampton. This is approximately 22.9% of the total population in the area.

Life expectancy is lower than the England average and Wolverhampton ranks 20 out of 326 Local Authority areas in the Indices of Deprivation 2010.

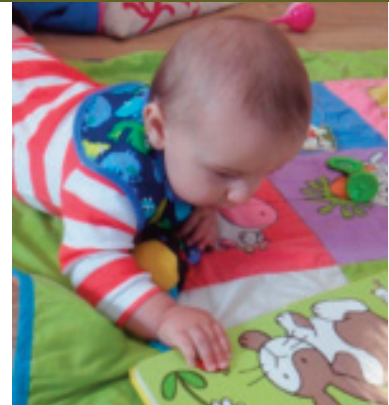




● Children (aged 0-17) who are living in poverty within Wolverhampton



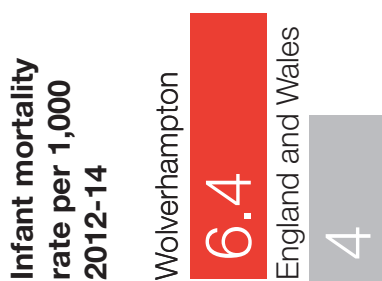
Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 41.6% of all children living in the area compared with 21.5% in England. Approximately 42.7% of children aged 5-17 are from a minority ethnic group compared with 24% in England. The largest minority ethnic group of children and young people in the area are Asian Indian (born in the UK).



Health

The foundations for virtually every aspect for human development - physical, intellectual and emotional - are established in early childhood. The Healthy Child Programme has highlighted the importance of giving every child the best start in life and reducing health inequalities throughout life.

The health and wellbeing of our children is paramount to securing good outcomes; unfortunately the health and wellbeing of children in Wolverhampton is worse than the England average.



Wolverhampton currently has an Infant Mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000 (2012-14) compared to 4.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Over the past 20 years there has been a 30% reduction in the average infant mortality rate for England and Wales, whereas in Wolverhampton the local infant mortality rate has largely remained static over this period. Despite a slight fall in the rate in 2012-14 Wolverhampton remains one of the Local Authorities with highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales.



Analysis by Wolverhampton Public Health found that smoking during pregnancy was a key risk factor for infant deaths within the city with the risk of infant death increasing by 54% for those mothers who smoked.



In 2015/2016 the rate of obesity for children aged 4-5 years is **12.2%** (the national average in 2014/15 was 12.3%)



By Year 6, **40%** of young people in Wolverhampton are overweight or obese

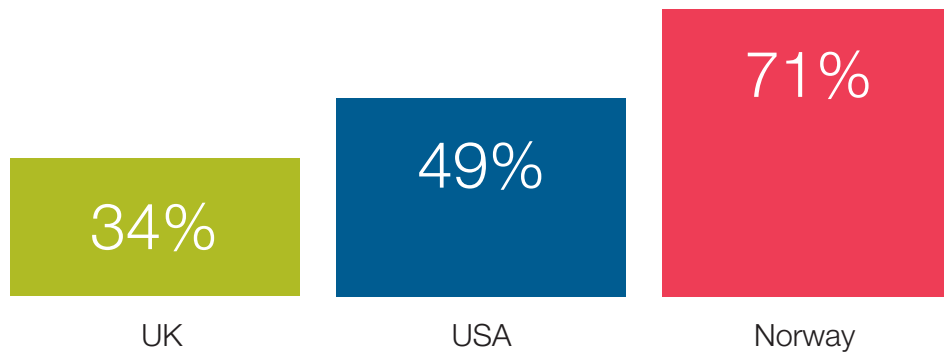


The current rate of under 18 conceptions age 15 to 17 years (2014) in Wolverhampton is **29.6 per 1,000** which is a 6% reduction in the previously reported rate of 31.5 per 1,000 (2013). Although the rate of under 18 conceptions has remained significantly higher than the England average (currently 22.8 per 1,000)



Infant feeding

Babies receiving breastmilk by six months of age





● Percentage of Primary and Secondary in Wolverhampton in the most deprived quintile nationally

Education

58 (59%) of the Primary and Secondary schools in Wolverhampton are in the most deprived quintile nationally as defined by Ofsted. There are no Wolverhampton schools classed as being in the least deprived category. 22% of all pupils are eligible for free school meals; for Primary schools (including reception) the figure is 20.5% (the national average is 14.5%) and in Secondary schools (including Academies) it is 19.7% (the national average is 13.2%).

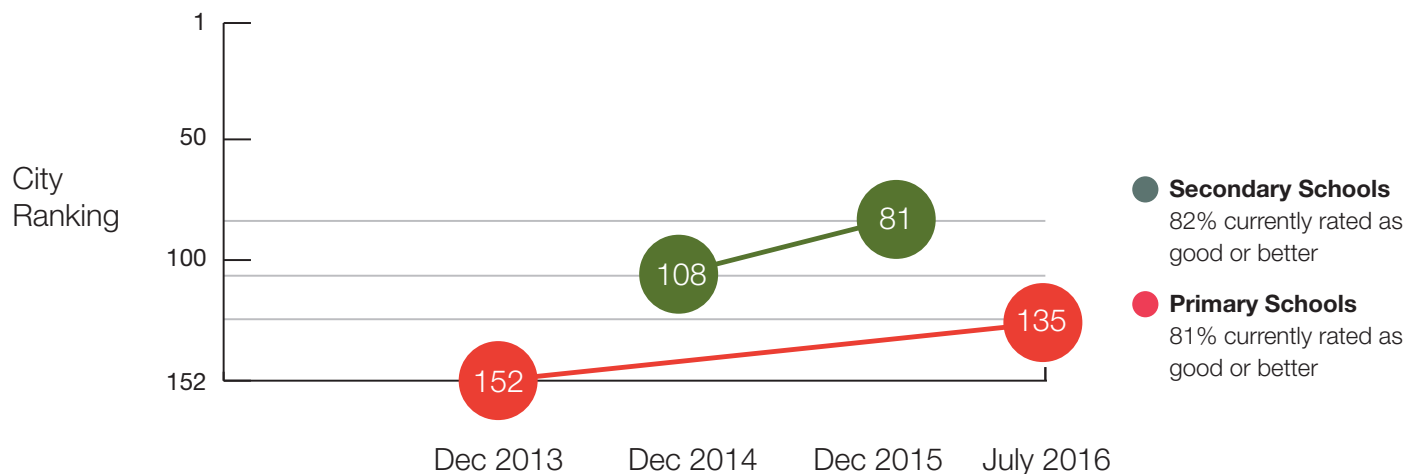


24% of pupils have English as an additional language



18% of pupils have Special Educational Needs against a national average of 15%

Ofsted outcomes: Wolverhampton



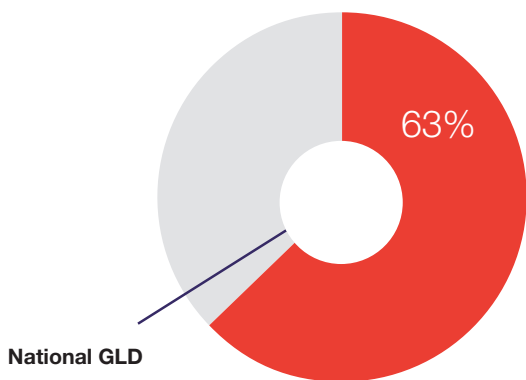
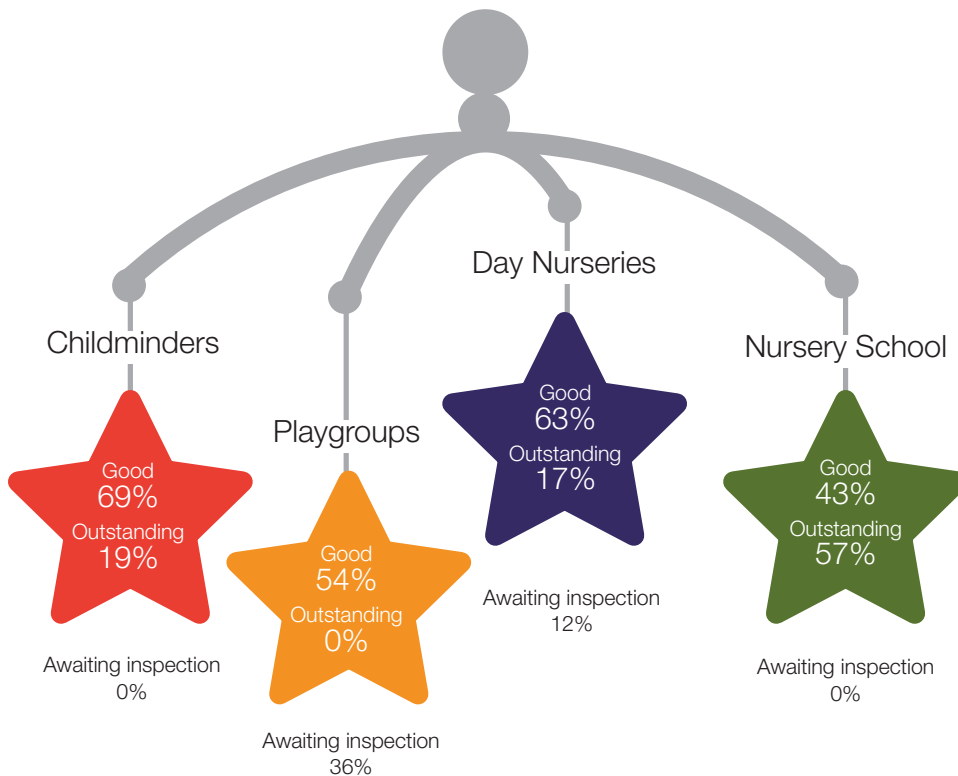
The city's schools have been on a rapid improvement journey over the last two years. Primary School Ofsted outcomes in December 2013 were the worst in the country when the Local Authority was rated 152nd out of 152 – the current rating is 135th and we are rapidly rising up the table – with 81% of Primary schools currently rated as good or better (July 2016). Secondary Schools have been on a similar journey with the Local Authority being rated as 108th in the country in December 2014 and in 2015 rated joint 81st, receiving the accolade of being in the top 20% of most improved authorities in the country, with only Solihull above Wolverhampton in the West Midlands.

The city has 83% of all schools currently rated as good or better (July 2016) with 82% of Secondary schools currently rated as good or better (July 2016).

The ambition is that by September 2018, 95% of schools in the city will be rated good or better when inspected.

The city continues through the work of the early help service, school improvement and standards team strive to ensure that schools, settings, childminders and all early year's providers are delivering high quality early years experiences. The Ofsted ratings for the city continue to rise annually; the figures for all providers within the city demonstrate this.

Ofsted Ratings - Wolverhampton Early Years Providers



However, the statutory assessment outcomes at the end of the key stage (early year’s foundation stage profile EYFSP) do not reflect these judgements as although Wolverhampton’s % of children achieving a good level of development (GLD) continues to rise annually; we do not meet the national % GLD. Provisional data for 2016 shows Wolverhampton achieved a GLD of 63%, a shortfall of 6% against the National figure of 69%.

● Percentage of children achieving a good level of development

September Offer

The September Offer is a commitment to offer, by the end of September, a suitable place in post-16 education or training to all young people in the year they reach compulsory education age.

Achievement 2015:



99.9% of the Year 11 received an offer. This was higher than the Black Country, the West Midlands and the England average

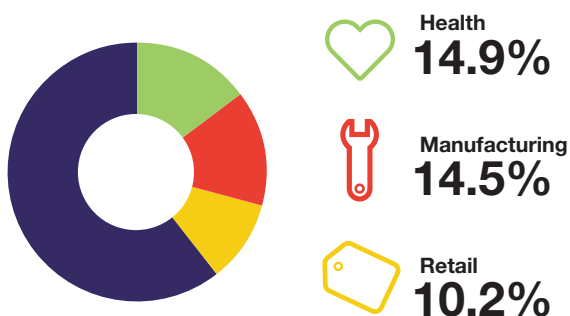


98.5% of Year 12 received an offer. This was higher than the Black Country, the West Midlands and the England average.

Employment

Wolverhampton is a city where economic growth and prosperity is a top priority for the council and its partners. In order to compete in the labour market and progress in the world of work, local people need the education, skills and determination to succeed. The statistics show that many local people struggle. Ensuring our children have the foundations to access future opportunities available to them is critical.

Where our residents work



Occupations

Wolverhampton has:



19.4% of the adult resident population have no qualifications compared to 8.5% nationally (Annual Population Survey estimate).



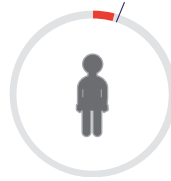
15.2% of the resident population aged 16-24 have no qualifications compared to 7.8% nationally (Annual Population Survey estimate).



33.4% of the resident population aged 16-24 have GCSE grades A to C or equivalent compared to 21.1% nationally (Annual Population Survey estimate).



Full time equivalent gross median pay is **£434.20** the 17th worst out of 327 English local authorities. However part-time median pay fares better at £156.20, the 91st worst in the country. (Annual Survey of Household earnings HMRC estimate).



4.1% of young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 4.7% nationally.

Benefits

Wolverhampton has:



The second highest claimant rate out of 327 district local authorities in England with 4.6% (1,380) of the resident population aged 16 to 24 claiming unemployment benefits

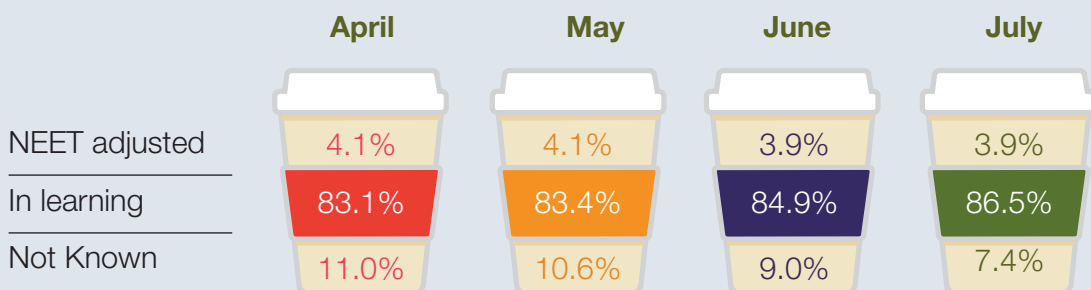


An unemployment claimant count rate of 4.2% that is double the national rate of 1.7% and the West Midlands rate of 2.3%.

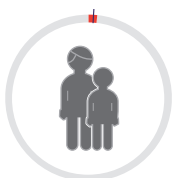


Over 1,360 people receiving Carers Allowance (0.53%) compared to 0.39% of people in the West Midlands.

Post 16 Participation rates for Wolverhampton April – July 2016



Lone Parents



Over 2,790 people in Wolverhampton are lone parents; 1.7% of the resident population aged 16 to 64 compared to 1.3% in the West Midlands and 1% nationally.



Over 28% of these lone parents on benefits are aged under 24 and over 97% of lone parents on benefits are female. (NB The removal of entitlement to the housing element of Universal Credit from young people aged 18-21, with some exceptions, from April 2017 has the potential to impact severely on Wolverhampton's young parents and their children).



Over half of lone parents have received benefits for more than two years.

5

Early intervention and prevention

For many years research has helped us understand that intervening early in the lives of young children can have a positive influence on their lives as they live and grow. Intervening early for those children and families who need it most makes a positive difference and the importance of the contribution that the Early Years service can make to this process cannot be underestimated. Yet intervention from services has historically often started at a higher level of need.

Wolverhampton aims to offer support at a much earlier stage, preventing the escalation of needs, wherever possible, and reducing the likelihood of problems emerging in the first place.

Early intervention services target the most vulnerable children and families who require additional and intensive support, focusing on improving outcomes. Services aim to improve the resilience and well-being for children and families and ensure they are able to access the right services at the right time in the right place. They also aim to make a significant difference in reducing demand for statutory services and to provide support to families who are stepping down from statutory services.

The Think Family approach helps to provide responses to the most vulnerable families and reduce inter-generational cycles of poor outcomes. The approach has far reaching implications which extends to both universal and targeted services who work with adults, young people, children and families and who work across all sectors.

Systems and services have recently been redesigned to ensure vulnerable children, young people and adults secure better outcomes, by co-ordinating the support they receive and the impact that services have.

Wolverhampton's approach is designed to be flexible enough to support all children and families whatever their need, whenever they need it. It aims to respond in a meaningful, supportive way, working with parents wherever possible. It takes into account that everyone involved with the family has an important part to play and puts the wellbeing of children and families at the heart of any support.

6

What will Early Years services look like for children, families and partners?

There is good practice happening across the city and families are supported well. However, more needs to be done not only in embedding this good practice but in constantly improving the outcomes for children and families.

In order to capture a child and family's journey and ensure the services we offer to them impacts on their outcomes, the Early Years Strategy has identified a number of key strategic priorities which have been grouped into the following four themes.



Good maternal health

This theme focuses on ensuring there is a consistent approach to the delivery of health services for families with a clear pathway from conception to age five, in line with the Healthy Child Programme outlining what families can expect from professional services. This will be achieved through good partnership working that ensures specialist services such as drug and alcohol and mental health services receive referrals at the earliest possible point, to help parents develop and sustain a strong bond with their child. The achievement of successful outcomes as a result of early intervention will support parents across the city.

Strengthening Families Hubs offer both universal and targeted support to families across the city. These are facilitated by a range of multi - agency professionals. Delivering universal services to every child and family provides an invaluable opportunity to identify children at risk of poor outcomes and provide early help to families. Research around early attachments tells us that promoting secure attachments and good maternal health are important for the emotional well-being and development of both mother and baby to secure the best start in life.

By offering a consistent and well planned approach to service delivery, families will be supported in developing secure attachments and identification of early needs. A clear pathway will ensure the ease of access to services such as early parenting classes, specialist health services (such as community based health services/professionals) and Strengthening Families Hubs.

Parents



✔ Will be engaged in health/ universal services at the earliest point and are clear about what is on offer across the city.

✔ Will participate in services so that their children have the opportunity to receive high quality health care

✔ Will understand their child's development milestones and how they can support them through their parenting

Professionals



✔ Will launch a pathway that all professionals who support children and families in the early years will sign up to that offers a consistent message and ensures the best start in life

✔ Will provide services at the appropriate milestones to ensure children get the best start in life

✔ Will provide antenatal classes that offer an attractive Early Parenting Programme to expectant parents and beyond including sessions focused on early attachment/bonding - Talk to your bump programme

✔ Will identify and make available a suite of multi - agency services to support expectant/new mothers at the earliest point. Especially those who may present with early signs of low mood or historical mental health issues

✔ Will support parents access to services already on offer e.g. SWITCH Programme, Therapeutic Support, Befriending services – Home Start

CASE STUDY

family in need



A family struggling with drug and alcohol addiction were made the subject of a Child Protection plan due to concerns about the impact this would have on the health and wellbeing of their unborn child – particularly as abnormalities were detected with the baby's heart.

The Early Intervention team provided a package of support to the parents, including emotional support regarding their drug and alcohol use, support to access antenatal hospital appointments and universal groups, housing support and parenting skills work.

Weekly visits to the family were carried out by professionals from health, social care and the Families in Focus programme. The parents interacted well, developing a positive relationship

with social care professionals, and were open and honest about any drug and alcohol use.

Due to ongoing concerns about this, the baby was removed from his parents at birth and placed in to foster care. They had contact with the child 5 days a week with the intention of being rehabilitated back under a Child in Need Plan. Meanwhile, the parents engaged with addiction services, testing negative for anything other than their prescribed medication, and also moved into a more stable property through Wolverhampton Homes.

The child returned to the family home a few months after birth. Early Intervention services continued to support the family, who are now living together successfully.



Parental engagement

This theme focuses on developing the provision of universal services for families in order to support parental engagement. Parents will be supported to develop good parenting skills to enable them to help their child(ren) achieve their full potential. This meets the key strategic priorities, by developing a clear pathway for parents and professionals that promotes an understanding of child development and improves readiness for school.

Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) research shows that parental engagement with their child's learning has a significant impact

on their outcomes. The role of Universal Services Practitioners is to support parents in becoming their child's first educator, as well as supporting families with school readiness. Practitioners and other professionals; including Health workers; are promoting Early Education Funding for eligible 2 year olds and all elements of 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Access to high quality educational experiences can have a significant impact on narrowing the attainment gap.



Through home learning and promotion of services parents will be assisted to build resilience and become the child's first educator also supporting school readiness. This will be measured by monitoring referrals for home learning and attendance at both play and stay and library groups. By developing the existing parent champions' programme and working in partnership with other professionals, promotion of Early Education Funding will support engagement with families within community groups, schools and childcare providers.

Parents



Professionals



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will increase their understanding of their child's developmental milestones and how they can support them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will promote services available to families in their community in order to deliver prevention and early Intervention support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will develop skills and resilience to become their child's primary educator providing good home learning environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will provide child development resources regarding ages and stages to inform parents of expected progress ✓ Will promote awareness and access of the Wolverhampton Information Network website to support parenting ✓ Will support with school readiness by developing a holistic understanding which supports families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will feel supported to participate in services ✓ Will access Bookstart, Play and Stay groups and other universal services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will increase the number of parent champions across the city ✓ Will develop the skills and knowledge of parent champions so that they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote universal services • Encourage other parents to access Early Education Funding • Enable them to signpost and support families to other services available in their community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will support their children to access high quality Early Education Funding (EEF) for 2,3 and 4 year olds and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will raise awareness of Early Education Funding and improve the take up of places ✓ Will identify eligible children so that resources can be targeted to the right children and families at the right time

CASE STUDY

Emma's Story



Emma first began receiving support from Whitmore Reans Children Centre in 2013 shortly after becoming a mum for the first time.

She had been experiencing real challenges at home, but thanks to the help and support of staff at the children's centre she was able to get back on the right track, accessing education and training opportunities at Whitmore Reans.

Shortly after, she moved to Wednesfield with her young child, and signed up to and completed the Freedom Programme for victims of domestic abuse run at Wednesfield Children's Village.

As life began to settle down, Emma gained in self-confidence and decided to volunteer on the Freedom Programme, helping support other women who, like her, had lived through domestic abuse.

Emma enjoyed the role so much that when she was asked to consider volunteering as a Parent Champion – and act as an advocate and peer advisor to other parents in her community - she jumped at the chance. In doing so, it gave her the confidence to use her new found skills, knowledge and experiences to try and secure a job working with children and families.

With a new-found fire inside her, Emma worked closely with the Parent Champion Co-ordinator to apply for a job as a Strengthening Families Worker – and in July was successfully appointed to the role. As Emma says, "the harder the struggle the more glorious the triumph!".

"The harder the struggle the more glorious the triumph!"

CASE STUDY

Caroline's Story



A mum-of-six, Caroline was keen to help other parents get the information they need about childcare and other services – and didn't let being heavily pregnant stop her from volunteering at Bingley Children's Centre.

She soon found the confidence to volunteer as a Parent Champion, enjoying training that gave her the skills she needed to work with parents, particularly around setting boundaries.

As well as chatting to parents when they meet up for activities, such as stay and play and the Freedom Programme, telling them about the support available to them and initiatives such as the two-year-old free childcare offer, Caroline

also worked with parents who are facing very difficult personal problems or circumstances – and quickly realised her role was not to try to immediately help others deal with everything, but to refer them to support services where necessary.

Caroline had a thirst to learn, develop and be a good role model to her children, and so during her time as Parent Champion she successfully applied for a part time Strengthening Families Worker post. She is looking forward to taking on the role after the birth of her baby, and also wants to continue being a volunteer Parent Champion.

"I know the skills and experience I have picked up as a Parent Champion will be really useful in my new job supporting local communities to thrive, and I'm looking forward to helping families turn their life around, just like I have."

High quality education

This theme focuses on ensuring all children in the city have access to high quality pre-school experience and education which will enhance and improve their Primary and Secondary Education.

Research (EPPSE3-16+) which tracked children from 1997 through to their educational and developmental outcomes at 16 years old in 2013 continues to drive and shape current government policy. The report demonstrates how pre-school experience continues to influence the outcomes of young children most significantly:

- The quality of pre-school experience predicted both total GCSE scores and English and Maths grades. High education was also linked to better pro-social behavior and lower levels of hyperactivity. The quality of pre-school experience was especially important for children whose parents have low qualifications.
- Attending a high quality pre-school, experiencing a longer duration, or attending settings of higher quality all predicted a greater likelihood of following an academic pathway post 16 as well key findings as a reduced likelihood of taking a lower academic route.

Key findings from Ofsted's good practice survey, "Teaching and play in the early years-a balancing act?" (July 2015) included:

- Accurate assessment of children's starting points was based on constant reflection about what was deemed typical for each child given their chronological age in months. Where we observed this to be most effective, staff entered into frequent discussion, within and between providers, to check and agree their judgments. This included the frequent sharing of information between parents, other pre-school settings and health visitors.
- Collaboration between early year's providers was key to securing a higher quality of teaching and play. We found that where schools and settings shared a site, were directly managed by one overarching leader or had entered into a professional network with others in the locality, expertise was shared effectively to allow all early years professionals to learn from the best. Many had become early year's hubs for their area, championing the importance of early education and raising the quality of learning and development.

Children



Professionals



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will have increased Good Level of Development at the Early Years Foundation Stage and will attain in line with National expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will develop a clear pathway for parents and professionals that promotes a common understanding of child development and how this can be supported ✔ Will establish a robust transition protocol to support children's' move onto statutory education including the sharing of data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will not achieve to a lesser degree if they receive Early Years Pupil Premium compared to those not receiving Early Years Pupil Premium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will develop a school readiness definition to improve readiness for school for all children with particular regard to disadvantaged and vulnerable children at age 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will receive high quality pre school education in settings that are judged to be good or outstanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will provide high quality learning environments ✔ Will achieve and maintain a "Good" or above Ofsted judgement ✔ Will provide a support and challenge function within and to settings in order to develop and continually improve practice ✔ Will develop training materials, opportunities and practice to support providers in implementing changes in practice that will impact on children's outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will achieve successful outcomes as a result of early intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Will track cohorts of children to monitor progress ensuring children at a disadvantage are fully supported ✔ Will use their best endeavours through the graduated approach to make sure that children with SEN get the support they need.

CASE STUDY

Mason's Story



Mason moved schools mid-term in 2015 after his previous school raised concerns with his family. His family took him out of his old school to escape the reality of the issues facing them.

He arrived at his new school with minimal language skills – his only verbal utterances were of a vulgar nature, including the use of the expletives in response to peers and staff. His low level communication skills and lack of boundaries within the home learning environment manifested itself through disruptive behaviour, demonstrations of temper and lashing out at staff and children.

The school supported Mason with intensive learning support, rewarding positive behaviour moments with praise, recognition, stickers and reward charts based upon his interests. His initial attendance was sporadic but a relationship was built and a consistent approach to managing his behaviour was applied.

Mason settled at school and his attendance, vocabulary and communication skills improved alongside his understanding of right and wrong. A positive impact was seen and documented within three months, and progress within the prime areas of personal, social and emotional development and communication and language means he is now working within age related expectations.

Indeed, he has become a role model for his peers, staff have a great relationship with both Mason and his mother, and will use this model of support with children who have similar needs in the future.

Workforce development

This theme focuses on challenging and supporting schools and childcare providers to deliver the best education for children and young people through developing a highly skilled Early Years workforce with strong and effective leadership and management. This meets the key strategic priorities, by establishing Early Years forums with a clear programme for improving outcomes. Also to establish a robust transition protocol and to ensure the workforce support effective transitions between settings.

There are some high quality Early Years practitioners across the city who are supporting other members of the childcare workforce to develop their skills within provisions. The model environments focus on strengthening leadership and management to raise the quality of learning environments, progress of implementation is monitored during quality support visits. The Local Offer came into effect from September 2014; this provides parents with information regarding how early years provision can support children with additional needs. Research demonstrates that inspirational practitioners providing stimulating and challenging environments support children in accelerating their learning.

Through the promotion of focused early years forums the workforce will be supported to share and disseminate good practice, building effective working relationships with other partners such as Wolverhampton university, City of Wolverhampton college and Adult Education services, to provide a consistent approach in developing high quality early years practice. Regular monitoring of the quality of early years practitioners entering the workforce and maintaining a continuous cycle of staff development within provision, will assist in ensuring the stability and quality of practitioners.

Children



✔ Will learn in high quality learning environments

✔ Will achieve to their full potential with those more disadvantaged than their peers progressing well.

Professionals



- ✔ Will share and disseminate good practice
- ✔ Will maintain a continuous cycle of staff development within the provision to ensure the stability and quality of the workforce

- ✔ Will develop and maintain Early Years forums to enable leaders and managers to enhance their knowledge of the sector and to build locality networks
- ✔ Will develop high levels of skills in graduate leaders
- ✔ Will access training support including model environments and peer support opportunities

- ✔ Will demonstrate an in depth knowledge of child development and how to support families
- ✔ Will embed effective key worker practice within provision
- ✔ Will implement observation planning and assessment to meet individuals needs and interests

CASE STUDY

Fun 4 Kidz Day Nursery and Teeny Weenies Playgroup



Wolverhampton's Early Intervention service recognises that working practitioners are one of the best sources of expertise and knowledge in the field, and has developed a peer-to-peer support network to improve outcomes for children by sharing knowledge and skills.

Teeny Weenies Playgroup wanted support to further enhance their quality and improve the outcomes for their children and was successfully paired with Fun 4 Kids, an outstanding day nursery with exceptional leadership and management strategies, an area of improvement needed by the playgroup.

Representatives from both provisions attended a meeting with a Quality and Access Officer to discuss the peer-to-peer support and identify key areas which would form an action plan.

The mentoring began in December 2015 with a number of visits taking place over the following months during which a range of issues were discussed, from policies and procedures, strategies and disciplinary processes to planning and staff training and support.

The support has been found to be very productive, with improvements being evident, especially around leadership and management and a number of new systems in place which are bringing about positive results.

The programme will continue when the playgroup returns in the autumn term, and the Quality and Access Officer will review the programme with both settings.



7

Performance management and governance

The project group and the strategy will be supported, challenged and monitored through the Education Board for internal purposes.

For partner engagement the project group and the strategy will be supported, challenged and monitored through the Strengthening Families Board on a quarterly basis.

The strategy will be reviewed annually by the Children's Trust Board.

Detailed action plans will be developed across the life of the strategy to drive the required improvement under each of the key themes.

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