

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 13 September 2016

**Time** 5.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Executive

**Venue** Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre

### Membership

**Chair** Cllr Andrew Johnson (Lab)

**Vice-chair** Cllr Roger Lawrence (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr Claire Darke  
Cllr Steve Evans  
Cllr Val Gibson  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
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** Julia Cleary, Democratic Support Officer  
**Tel/Email** 01902 555046 or [julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Address** Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

**Website** <https://wolverhamptonintranet.moderngov.co.uk>  
**Email** [democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Tel** 01902 555043

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording, and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are displayed in the meeting room.

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*

1            **Apologies for absence**

2            **Declarations of interest**

### **MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS**

3            **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 10)  
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]

4            **Matters arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes.]

5            **Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices** (Pages 11 - 14)  
[To Note the Summary of Individual Executive Decision Notices]

### **DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)**

6            **Improving Security at Vulnerable 'Unauthorised Encampment' Sites Across Wolverhampton** (Pages 15 - 22)  
[To consider recommendations in relation to 'unauthorised encampment' sites across Wolverhampton.]

7            **Empty Property Strategy; Compulsory Purchase of 14 Lane Road, Lanesfield, WV4 6NG** (Pages 23 - 32)  
[To Consider a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of Part II of the Housing Act 1985]

8            **Acquisition of Privately Owned Empty Properties by Agreement or Compulsory Purchase; 21 Crawford Avenue, Lanesfield, WV4 6PL** (Pages 33 - 42)  
[To Consider the acquisition of the property.]

9            **Pathway to Support Programme** (Pages 43 - 54)  
[To consider expenditure and commissioning in relation to the Pathways to Support Programme.]

10          **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**

- 11        **Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services** (Pages 55 - 68)  
[To consider the award of a new Service User Involvement (Drugs and Alcohol) contract and various delegations of authority.]
  
- 12        **Future Use of the Ekta Day Centre** (Pages 69 - 88)  
[To consider the future use of the centre.]

This page is intentionally left blank

## Attendance

### Members of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel

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

### Employees

Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Keren Jones	Director of Education and Enterprise
Mark Blackstock	Head of visitor Economy
Claire Nye	Chief Accountant
Karen Beasley	Housing Development Officer
Andy Moran	Head of Procurement
Julia Cleary	Democratic Support Officer

---

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*      *Title*

- 1      **Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr John Reynolds and Cllr Paul Sweet.
- 2      **Declarations of interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3      **Minutes of the previous meeting**  
Resolved:  
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2016 be agreed as a correct record.
- 4      **Matters arising**  
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5      **Income Generation Civic Halls**  
Cllr Andrew Johnson introduced a report summarising the case for procuring the Visitor Economy Box Office service. The service sought to optimise the commercial income of the newly refurbished concert halls, ensuring the venue had the box office and marketing system required for the improved venue and consolidating its new place in the market.

Resolved:

That the proposal to offer the Visitor Economy Box Office out to tender, in order to generate income in excess of £110,000 be approved.

## 6 **Civic Halls Improvement Programme**

Cllr Andrew Johnson introduced a report providing an update on the Civic Halls Improvement Project which had been approved by Cabinet in October 2014. The report sought approval from the Panel for the revised proposals, the capital funding profile and the revised commercial income targets.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet (Resources) Panel:

1. Approve the revisions to the proposals, the capital funding profile and the revised and improved commercial income targets for the Civic Halls Improvement Scheme.
2. Approve additional capital resources of £2.6 million for the Civic Halls Improvement Scheme funded through additional borrowing that is fully funded from additional net income from the Civic Halls.
3. Note that the capital requirements outlined in the report provided an update to the position reported to Cabinet on 29 June 2016 in the Capital budget outturn 2015/16 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2016/17 and financial strategy report. As a result, the report of Cabinet to Council on 20 July 2016 would reflect these revised changes and provide a comprehensive update to the capital programme.
4. Note that the procurement process and arrangements for contract award were considered in the procurement report elsewhere on the agenda.
5. Note that the MTFs would be adjusted to reflect the additional net income to the Visitor Economy service required to meet the additional borrowing costs.

## 7 **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Implementation Grant**

Cllr Val Gibson introduced a report in relation to The Children and Families Bill 2013 which included proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs or with disabilities (SEND).

The Department for Education had allocated funds to each local authority as part of the SEND Implementation Grant. The purpose of the grant was to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them. Wolverhampton had been allocated a total of £237,000 in 2014/15, £157,000 in 2015/16 and £178,000 in 2016/17.

Resolved:

That the Panel approve the expenditure of £437,000 in 2016/17 to be funded from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Implementation Grant to fund the Implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to high needs disabled children and young people.

8 **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/2017**

Cllr Andrew Johnson introduced a report is to providing the Panel with a projection of the likely revenue outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue accounts, compared with the Council's approved revenue budgets for 2016/17.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet (Resources) Panel:

1. Approve the use of £436,000 from the Transformation Reserve to fund various transformation priorities as detailed at section 4.3.2 of the report.
2. Approve the use of £762,000 from the Efficiency Reserve to fund various efficiency priorities as detailed at section 4.3.3
3. Approve the use of £256,000 from the Regeneration Reserve to fund various regeneration priorities as detailed at section 4.3.4
4. Approve the write off of three sundry debts totalling £34,091.28 as detailed in Appendix F.
5. Approve three virements totalling £184,000 detailed in Appendix G.
6. That the projected outturn for the General Fund for 2016/17 was in line with the approved net budget requirement of £217.4 million.
7. That projected redundancy costs; including the cost of pension strain totalling £3.0 million were included in the forecast outturn. The projected costs were subject to change dependent upon the actual redundancies approved by year end. It was anticipated that underspends against the central provision for auto-enrolment and pay award costs would offset the cost of redundancies at this stage, however the allocation of capital receipt flexibility to transformational projects in 2016/17 was currently under review with the potential for redundancy costs and the costs of other transformational projects to be met in this way. Cabinet and Council would be presented with an update on the use of capital receipts to transformational projects over the forthcoming months. In the event that the use of capital receipts replaced previously approved specific reserve drawdowns, an update would be provided to Cabinet and Council.
8. That 2,070 sundry debt accounts totalling £679,754.52 had been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
9. That 413 council tax accounts totalling £135,981.75 had been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

10. That 30 non domestic rates accounts totalling £94,149.12 had been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

11. That 39 housing benefit accounts totalling £5,993.82 had been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

12. That a £15.5 million surplus on the Housing Revenue account (HRA) is projected compared with a budgeted surplus of £14.9 million as shown at table 7 and in detail at Appendix H to the report. The projected increased surplus of £594,000 would be used to redeem debt in line with the HRA Business Plan.

9 **Exclusion of press and public**

Resolved:

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 falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

10 **Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services**

The recommendations for the award of contracts for works, goods and services were introduced by the relevant Cabinet Member.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet (Resources) Panel authorise:

1. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing and City Assets, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for Window Cleaning Services for up to four years from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2020 for a total estimated contract value of £440,000 when the evaluation process is complete.
2. Awarding the contract for Housing Revenue Account Capital Works Programme to Wolverhampton Homes Limited of Hickman Avenue, Chillington Fields, Wolverhampton, WV1 2BY for the year 2016/17 for a total contract value of approximately £5.3 million
3. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for Pinfold Bridge Refurbishment for two months from November 2016 to December 2016 for a total estimated contract value of £800,000 when the evaluation process is complete.
4. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for i54 to Science Park Cycleway Works for two months from

November 2016 to December 2016 for a total estimated contract value of £500,000 when the evaluation process is complete.

5. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for Repair and Maintenance of Cremators for four years from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2021 for a total estimated contract value of £320,000 when the evaluation process is complete.
6. Awarding the contract for Residential and Outreach Short Breaks provision for disabled children and young people to Progress Children's Services of 127 Millfields Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 6JG for a duration of five years from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2021 for a total contract value up to £3.25 million.
7. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for the Civic Halls Improvement Programme for up to two years from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 for a total estimated contract value of £10.8 million when the evaluation process is complete.
8. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place to approve the award of a contract for Box Office Services for up to eight years, subject to performance and termination clauses, from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2024 for a total estimated contract value of £1.6 million dependent on ticket sales, when the evaluation process is complete.
9. Delegated authority to the Director of Governance to execute contracts in respect of the above as required.
10. That the Panel note the letter dated 29 June 2016 received from Cabinet Office, Department for Communities and Local, Department relating to British steel companies, Procurement Policy Note "Procuring steel in major projects" and guidance note, see appendix 1. The Council intends to implement the recommendations of this Procurement Policy Note for construction projects over £10.0 million and that the full economic and social impacts of steel procurement is taken into account when evaluating proposals.

## 11 **Heath Town Regeneration**

Cllr Peter Bilson introduced a report in relation to Heath Town regeneration. Members considered the report and welcomed the proposals.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet Panel (Resources):

1. Approve the lease arrangements for the lower ground and ground floors of Ling House to the Hope Family Centre on concessionary rental terms.

2. Approve, in principle, the proposed community self-build project with Black Country Make at land off Inkerman Street, subject to the submission of an acceptable Business Plan.
3. Approve delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Housing and Assets, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Housing, to agree the granting of a lease to Black Country Make for the use of land off Inkerman Street.
4. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Members for City Housing and Assets and Resources, in conjunction with the Strategic Director for Housing Services and the Director for Finance through an Individual Executive Decision Notice to approve the finally agreed terms for various transactions involving Heath Town Regeneration including any lease variations or licences.
5. Note the relocation of the Hope Family Centre moving from Chervil Rise to Ling House once refurbishment works have been completed.
6. Note the surrender of part of the existing area leased to Sanctuary Housing Association, removing a small area of walkway currently within the leased area, to permit its demolition as part of the Heath Town regeneration works.
7. Note the intention to terminate the lease with the GP Dr Christopher, Chervil Rise Surgery by December 2016, if the practice has not already moved to alternative premises, with support from NHS Property Services and NHS England.



# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	All	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Democratic Support	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Julia Cleary Tel Email	Democratic Support Officer 01902 555046 Julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

---

## Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees.

## Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices

### Part 1 – Open Items

#### 1. Corporate

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Cllr Claire Darke	Director of Education	24 August 2016	<b>Bill Hague 01902 555100</b>
<b>Title and Summary of Decision</b>			
<b>Resource Base Provision at Bushbury Hill Primary School – Outcome of Initial Consultation</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consideration of the outcome of Initial Consultation on the proposed formal removal of the resource base at Bushbury Hill Primary School;</li> <li>2. Approval progression to Formal Consultation (Representation) with regard to the proposed formal removal of the resource base at Bushbury Hill Primary School.</li> </ol>			

#### 2. Place

Decision maker	In consultation with	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Cllr Steve Evans	Service Director - City Environment	8 July 2016	<b>Bob Willis 01902 555790</b>
<b>Title and Summary of Decision</b>			
<b>Highway Maintenance Programme 2016-2017</b>			
To approve the highlighted schemes from Wolverhampton's 2016/17 Highway maintenance programme.			
<b>Decision maker</b>			
Cllr Steve Evans	Service Director – City Environment	20 July 2016	<b>Nick Broomhall 01902 555723</b>
<b>Title and Summary of Decision</b>			
<b>Ring Road Cycle Routes, Traffic Regulation Orders</b>			
To agree the implementation of measures at various locations to improve safety, encourage travel and contribute to the effective management of the highway network.			
<b>Decision maker</b>			
Cllr Steve Evans	Service Director – City Environment	26 August 2016	<b>Bob Willis 01902 555790</b>
<b>Title and Summary of Decision</b>			
<b>Proposed stopping up of Public Footpath FP226, Beach Avenue to Brough Close, Spring Vale, Section 116 Highways Highways Act 1980.</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the recommendation to close the Public Footpath FP266, Beach Avenue to Brough Close, Spring Vale.</li> <li>2. To authorize the Director of Governance to serve notices and make an application to Wolverhampton Magistrates; Court for an order stopping up the footpath under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980.</li> </ol>			

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>In consultation with</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cllr Steve Evans	Service Director – City Environment	1 August 2016	<b>Nick Broomhall 01902 555723</b>

**Title and Summary of Decision**

**Stafford Road and Wobaston Road proposed 30 mph speed limit**

1. Approval of parts of Wobaston Road and parts of Stafford Road 30 mph speed limit traffic regulation order (TRO);
2. Approval of the proposed revocation of the existing 40 mph speed limit relating to Wobaston Road and Stafford Road.
3. Authorisation for the Director of Governance to advertise the above orders under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and, subject to there being no unresolved objections, to subsequently implement the orders.

**Part 2 – Exempt Items**

**1. Place**

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>In consultation with</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cllr Peter Bilson	Strategic Director – Place	28 July 2016	<b>Gwyn James 01902 555755</b>

**Title and Summary of Decision**

**Award of Contract for Ring Road Cycle Routes St John’s and St George’s**

To award the contract for Ring Road Cycle Routes St John’s and St George’s Parade.

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>In consultation with</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cllr Steve Evans	Strategic Director - Place	26 July 2016	<b>Julia Nock 01902 550316</b>

**Title and Summary of Decision**

**Non Highway Structures – approval of Projects 2016/2017**

1. That the list of projects listed Table 1 to be funded from the Non Highways Structures provision for suture programmes budget.
2. That in the event there is an underspend or change in circumstances and subject to budget availability, a project can be brought forward from the list of reserve projects.

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>In consultation with</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cllr John Reynolds	Service Director – City Economy	7 July 2016	<b>Kevin Moore 01902555570</b>

**Title and Summary of Decision**

**i54 sale of Plot G**

Approval of the sale by Staffordshire County Council of Plot G at i54 to Aberdeen City Council on the main heads of terms set out in the report.

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>In consultation with</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cllr John Reynolds	Service Director – City Economy	11 August 2016	<b>Kevin Moore 01902 555570</b>

**Title and Summary of Decision**

**Bilston Urban Village**

The approval of the grant of easements to Severn Trent Water Ltd and a variation in the

Academy lease plan as detailed in the report.			
<b>Decision maker</b>			
<b>In consultation with</b>			
<b>Date Approved</b>			
<b>Contact Officer</b>			
Cllr John Reynolds Cllr Peter Bilson Cllr Andrew Johnson	Service Director – City Economy Service Director – City Assets Director of Finance	2 August 2016	<b>David Moore</b> <b>01902555871</b>
<b>Title and Summary of Decision</b>			
<b>Wolverhampton Interchange: i10 Legal Agreements – Tarmac Products Ltd</b> Authorisation to enter into agreements and licences in respect of a lease for the first floor of commercial floorspace at i10.			

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Improving security at vulnerable, 'unauthorised encampment' sites across Wolverhampton.	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Ross Cook, City Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Public Protection	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Andy Jervis	Head of Public Protection
	Tel:	01902 551261
	Email:	andy.jervis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Places Leadership Team	15 August 2016
	Strategic Executive Board	23 August 2016

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the start of a process to determine detailed costs of works to prevent unauthorised encampments on Steelpark Way, Wednesfield and Murdoch Road, Bilston.
2. Authorise the Service Director; City Environment, to approve the preferred contractor to carry out the works.
3. Approval is sought for a contribution not exceeding £5,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve to fund the cost of security improvement works at Bentley Bridge Swimming and Fitness Centre, Ashmore Park and the Bilston Urban Village development site.
4. Approval is sought to a total virement of £165,000, in accordance with the Councils financial procedure rules, from the Corporate Contingency provision, to fund the cost of security improvement works at the remaining sites as detailed in this report.

## **Recommendations for noting:**

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. That approval was granted by SEB on 23 August 2016 to begin the site security works at the locations listed in Table 1 of section 3.1.

### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 During 2016 work has been undertaken by staff within City Environment to identify the Council owned sites and highway locations that have been the most vulnerable to unauthorised encampment by the Gypsy and Traveller community in recent years. Integral to the evaluation was to give particular emphasis to the sites where the impact on both residents and business is thought to be the greatest.
- 1.2 This preliminary work has been completed and approval to progress the minor works at a number of sites has been granted. These are shown in section 3.1.
- 1.3 Two locations described in section 3.2 and 3.3 require more complex measures and therefore fall outside of this approval and this report seeks to obtain endorsement for the proposed way forward at these two sites, including authorisation to commit funds to deliver the identified site security works.

### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In common with the other local authorities in the Black Country, Wolverhampton has experienced regular unauthorised encampments by the Gypsy and Traveller community over recent years.
- 2.2 In response to this, a new joint protocol between City of Wolverhampton Council and West Midlands Police was developed during 2015/16 with the aim of improving our overall response to incursions. The revised protocol has proven to be operationally successful and there is now an on-going workstream to develop a similar protocol encompassing the whole of the Black Country.
- 2.3 Following on from this initiative, in April 2016 a presentation was made to SEB describing the sites within Wolverhampton that are regarded as the most vulnerable to unauthorised encampments. SEB have subsequently agreed and approved measures to improve security at sites Ref 1 to Ref 6 in Table 1 of section 3.1. This report seeks authorisation to start the process of securing Murdoch Road, Bilston and Steelpark Way, Wednesfield from future incursions.
- 2.4 The focus of this report is on land and highways under Council ownership and therefore two locations: Pendeford Business Park and Park Dale East / West that appeared in the previous SEB report have been omitted. Furthermore, security measures at the Lunt

Road cycle path site in Bilston are much improved and future incursions are regarding as unlikely.

2.5 A potential unintended consequence of these proposals is the possible displacement of illegal incursions to other sensitive sites within or beyond the city boundary. The monitoring of future incursions will identify whether and where this risk is realised. For example, Faulkland St Coach Park, which was one of the originally identified potentially vulnerable sites, could suffer from incursions displaced from the newly protected sites and the situation will be kept under review.

2.6 Wolverhampton Homes will also monitor sites potentially vulnerable to displaced incursions and if any other City of Wolverhampton land is deemed at risk further reports will be considered by SEB and Councillors to determine appropriate actions, including further protective measures.

### 3.0 Progress and Proposals

3.1 It was agreed by SEB on 23 August 2016 that the relatively low cost improvement works shown below in Table 1 should begin, without delay, for a total cost not likely to exceed £20,000.

Table 1

Reference	Location	Remedy	Total cost of works £
1	Swimming and Fitness Centre, Bentley Bridge	New bollards to be installed by the site entrance	3,000
2	Ashmore Park	New wooden bollards following further site assessment	1,000
3	Fowlers Park	New double opening height barrier	5,000
4	Bee Lane Playing Fields	New double opening height barrier	5,000
5	Science Park (Park and Ride)	New double opening height barrier	5,000
6	Bilston Urban Village development site	Additional heavy concrete blocks	1,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>20,000</b>

### 3.2 Steelpark Way and Bearings Drive, Wednesfield

3.2.1 Access to these vulnerable sites is along a public highway without restrictions and the encampments have also occurred on a public highway which prevents the Police using

their powers to evict. Therefore, depending upon court availability, an incursion may last up to 14 days.

### 3.2.2 Companies affected by recent incursions include:

- Tatar Steel
- Arnold Clark Car & Van Rental
- GTG Training - providers of training services to many of the UK's largest companies, including Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd, major banks, public utilities, emergency services, the NHS, the M.O.D. and many local authorities. They also offer a range of modern apprenticeship programmes and offer locations for meetings, conferences and events.
- Architectural Aluminium Coatings Ltd (AAC Ltd)

3.2.3 Two incursions in 2016 caused severe reputational damage to these companies with a loss of customer orders to AAC Ltd who felt the need to take their own costly measures to deter future incursions. There was also deep concern over the safety of the Traveller children playing in the highway with a high volume of HGVs trying to pass through. Such was the impact of the most recent incursion in May 2016 that AAC Ltd considered moving from Bearings Drive if a solution to prevent further incursions cannot be found. The Council has already contributed in the region of £6,000 towards the costs incurred by AAC Ltd in relation to site protection measures taken at Steelpark Way.

3.2.4 Following consultation with Transportation and Highways, the most practical solution to prevent further incursions is considered to be the installation of two electric rising kerb barriers directly in to the road surface. These barriers could be controlled by the companies listed in 3.2.2 and a variety of access control options are available including proximity card, radio, token, keypad and intercom. Remote control of the barriers is also possible. The supplying company would need to survey the location and advise on the type and location of the barriers.

## 3.3 Murdoch Road, Bilston

3.3.1 As with Steelpark Way, access is along a public highway without restrictions and the encampments have been along a road which can significantly slow the eviction process for the reason given in in section 3.2.1

### 3.3.2 Companies affected by recent incursions include:

- D.S.Willetts (Stainless) Ltd – A company profiling stainless steel since 1986 and which carries a large stainless steel stock range
- MF Hawkins & Sons Ltd – a company specialising in expert metal finishing services
- Parker Precision - A manufacturer of precision components for over 60 years and having a customer base supplying a range of industries including: aerospace, oil, defence, electronics & medical

3.3.3 The current metal swing gate across the highway is impractical and ineffective at preventing Travellers as evidenced by at least nine recorded incursions since 2014. D.S.Willetts (Stainless) Ltd has repeatedly reported severe disruption to their business

owing to obstruction of delivery vehicles and they feel that regular incursions are harming the area's reputation. There are concerns over the safety of the children who have been known to ride on the back of HGVs and reports that recent groups have used threatening behaviour and general intimidation towards employees who feel vulnerable in such a remote location.

- 3.3.4 Following consultation with Transportation and Highways, a single electric rising kerb barrier is thought to be the most practical solution to prevent further incursions. This would be controlled by the companies listed in 3.3.2 and, as above, a variety of access control options are available. Again, as above, the supplying company would need to advise on the type and precise location of the barrier to try and avoid any incursion displacement.
- 3.4 Quotes range from £15,000 to £50,000 for a single road blocker depending on the type and specification. The price includes installation, routine service and breakdown call - out cover and a range of access solutions. Consultation with all affected parties and compliance with statutory requirements would be required before placing an order. This cost does not include possible Statutory Undertakers costs: service diversions for example. A delivery time of 8 weeks from the time the order is placed is thought to be a realistic period.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 The current estimated average revenue cost to the Council of forcefully clearing an unauthorised encampment exceeds £3,000 per incursion which includes legal fees, private bailiff costs and waste removal costs. During 2015/16 there were 20 unauthorised encampments at a cost to the Council in the region of £60,000. To date in this financial year there have been seven unauthorised encampments at a cost of £21,000. It is anticipated that the investment proposed in this report will significantly reduce the revenue costs going forward.
- 4.2 Investment in security improvements works at sites detailed in table 1 are estimated to cost in the region of £20,000 and will benefit both residents and businesses within the City. It is anticipated that the works at Bentley Bridge Swimming and Fitness Centre, Ashmore Park and Bilston Urban Village development site for an estimated cost of £5,000 will be met primarily by budget underspends elsewhere across City Environment. In the event that underspends are insufficient Cabinet approval is sought for a contribution not exceeding £5,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve.
- 4.3 Works at the remaining sites; Fowlers Park, Bee Lane playing fields and the Science Park are eligible for capitalisation and require capital resources of £15,000. Approval is sought to a total virement of £15,000, in accordance with the Councils financial procedure rules, from the Corporate Contingency provision across these three individual capital projects as detailed in table 1. This adjustment in the capital programme will be included in the next update of the capital programme presented to Cabinet and Full Council.
- 4.4 It is anticipated that the improvement works proposed at Steelpark Way and Murdoch Road have an estimated minimum cost of £45,000 not exceeding £150,000. This will

require further capital resources therefore Cabinet endorsement is sought at this meeting to progress with works at these sites. Approval is sought to a total virement of £150,000 to fund the maximum anticipated expenditure, in accordance with the Councils financial procedure rules, from the Corporate Contingency provision to the two individual capital projects listed above. This adjustment in the capital programme will be included in the next update of the capital programme presented to Cabinet and Full Council. Statutory Undertaker costs for possible service diversions are not included within these cost estimates. [TK/020916/Z]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 The primary legal implications that emerge from this report involve the closure of highways at Steelpark Way and Murdoch Road.
- 5.2 The appropriate legal process would need to be followed in order to properly complete the road closures and associated site security works.[RB/01092016/J]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are protected against race discrimination because of their ethnic group under the Equality Act 2010 and a welfare needs assessment is always carried out before deciding to proceed with an eviction. Furthermore RRR Consultancy Ltd has been commissioned to undertake the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) element of the joint SHMA for Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire councils.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 Unauthorised encampments can cause damage to the local environment during the period of their stay and clean - up costs following voluntary or forced eviction can be considerable. It is important to note that this programme of works will not mean a permanent end to unauthorised encampments within Wolverhampton with some displacement likely. However addressing these initial targets should help to make Wolverhampton become a less attractive destination for groups of Gypsy's and Travellers wishing to set up an encampment on Council owned land and highways.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

- 8.1 Dealing with unauthorised encampments is a significant drain on human resources during the busiest time of year for both the City of Wolverhampton and the Police. The measures outlined above would help alleviate those pressures. Additional resource may be required to deliver the schemes at Murdoch Road and Steelpark Way.

## **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 9.1 None

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 Report titled: Improving security at vulnerable unauthorised encampment sites across Wolverhampton to Place Leadership Team 15 August 2016 and SEB 23 August 2016.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Empty Property Strategy – Compulsory Purchase of 14 Lane Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, WV4 6NG	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Cabinet member for City Assets	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Spring Vale	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Lesley Roberts, Strategic Director, City Housing	
<b>Originating service</b>	Private Sector Housing	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Natalie Healy	Housing Improvement Officer
	Tel	01902 550554
	Email	natalie.healy@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

- i) To make the following Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of Part II of the Housing Act 1985:  
  
The City of Wolverhampton council (14 Lane Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, WV4 6NG) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016.
- ii) To authorise the Strategic Director, City Housing on behalf of the council to:
  - a) Take all reasonable steps as soon as it is reasonably practical to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all Notices and the presentation of the council's case at any Public Inquiry.

- b) Acquire interests in the land within the Order either compulsorily or by agreement before or after making the Order.
- c) Approve agreements with land owners setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order, and/or making arrangements for re-housing or relocation of any occupiers.
- d) Approve to the making of a General Vesting Declaration.
- e) Following any acquisition, authorise the Strategic Director, City Housing to declare the property surplus and dispose of the property on the open market on condition that the property is refurbished and re-occupied within 6 or 12 months (as appropriate to the scale of the works).
- f) Approve the disposal of the property by auction, tender or private treaty.
- g) Declare the property surplus to council requirements and dispose of the property on the open market via auction on condition that the property is refurbished and re-occupied within 6 or 12 months dependent of the scope of works

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Panel to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of Part II of the Housing Act 1985 in respect of 14 Lane Road, Wolverhampton and for negotiations to continue with any established interested parties in advance of confirmation of the Order as appropriate.
- 1.2 Following confirmation of the Order, approval is sought for the making of a General Vesting Declaration.
- 1.3 Approve the disposal of the property by auction, tender or private treaty subject to the outcome of the Compulsory Purchase Order and General Vesting Declaration.
- 1.4 This decision is in support of City of Wolverhampton council's Empty Property Strategy 2010-2015 which aims to bring empty properties back into use.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The property, highlighted on the attached map is a three bedroom semi-detached property. The owner passed away in July 2014 and the estate is still registered under the deceased owner's names under the Land Registration Act. The council has traced a relative, but to date they have not applied for probate due to other relatives coming forward and can not be progressed without the consent of all parties involved.
- 2.2 It was identified for action following complaints from neighbours in June 2014, due to the deteriorating condition of the property and land and an incident of anti-social behaviour which was attended by the Police.
- 2.3 The council served a Section 215 Notice on the property in 2008, which has been registered by Legal Services on Land Registry and the debt is still outstanding.
- 2.4 As the council's attempts to open informal negotiations with known relatives has not resolved the situation or brought about a voluntary solution; it is now considered necessary to continue with formal action under the Empty Property Strategy as a resolution.
- 2.5 The principle of establishing a revolving fund to drive forward the Private Sector Empty Property Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2006. The revolving fund provides for properties that are consistent with the strategy to be acquired under compulsory purchase powers, marketed for sale and brought back into residential occupation. The arrangements proposed for the property at 14 Lane Road are consistent with that strategy. Should the Compulsory Purchase Order be confirmed in favour of the council, the council would seek to dispose of the property by auction. The property would be sold with the condition that the property is brought back to a required standard of repair within a specified time limit.

### **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 In the event of an acquisition the costs can be met from the £540,000 capital budget for the Empty property strategy approved by Council on 20 July 2016. The subsequent sale of the property would result in a capital receipt, ringfenced to finance future purchases through the Empty property strategy. Any non-capital costs incurred between purchase and sale, for example security measures, must be met from current private sector housing budgets.
- 3.2 There are no exceptional circumstances in the case of 14 Lane Road, Wolverhampton. A Notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to tidy the land resulted in the council carrying out works in default, which resulted in an outstanding charge and it will therefore not be necessary to pay the additional statutory 7.5% compensation payment should the Order be confirmed.
- 3.3 Bringing empty properties back into use attracts New Homes Bonus to the City Council and could result in additional council tax revenue.

[JB/30082016/X]

### **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 empowers local housing authorities to compulsorily acquire land, houses or other properties for the provision of housing accommodation. However the acquisition must achieve a qualitative or quantitative housing gain. In order to make a Compulsory Purchase Order under this power and achieve successful confirmation, the council will need to show compliance with the requirements of the relevant statutory provision and circular 06/2004 Compulsory Purchase and the Crichel Down Rules. Where there are objections to a Compulsory Purchase Order the matter may go forward to a public inquiry and specialist Counsel may need to be engaged to present the council's case.
- 4.2 Article 1 of Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1988 guarantees peaceful enjoyment of possessions and would be engaged by the making of a CPO. However, the contents of this report and the actions recommended are considered to be proportional and compatible with the Human Rights Act 1988, particularly bearing in mind the above checks and balances on the Local Authority's power.

[TS/2308/2016/W]

### **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been considered throughout the process and in assessing the outcome. An Equality Analysis has been completed and this does not indicate any adverse implications. Bringing an empty property back into use will improve the visual amenity of the area and can make the area more welcoming to some groups covered by the Equality Act 2010, in doing so this will promote participation in public life.

## **6.0 Environmental implications**

6.1 This report has evidenced the neighbourhood sustainability impact and environmental blight that a long term dilapidated empty property can have in a locality. It will allow a long term empty property to be refurbished providing much needed sustainable accommodation and remove a potential magnet for anti-social behaviour. This will improve the appearance of the neighbourhood, enhancing property conditions and contribute to the regeneration of the City, meeting the council's strategic objectives

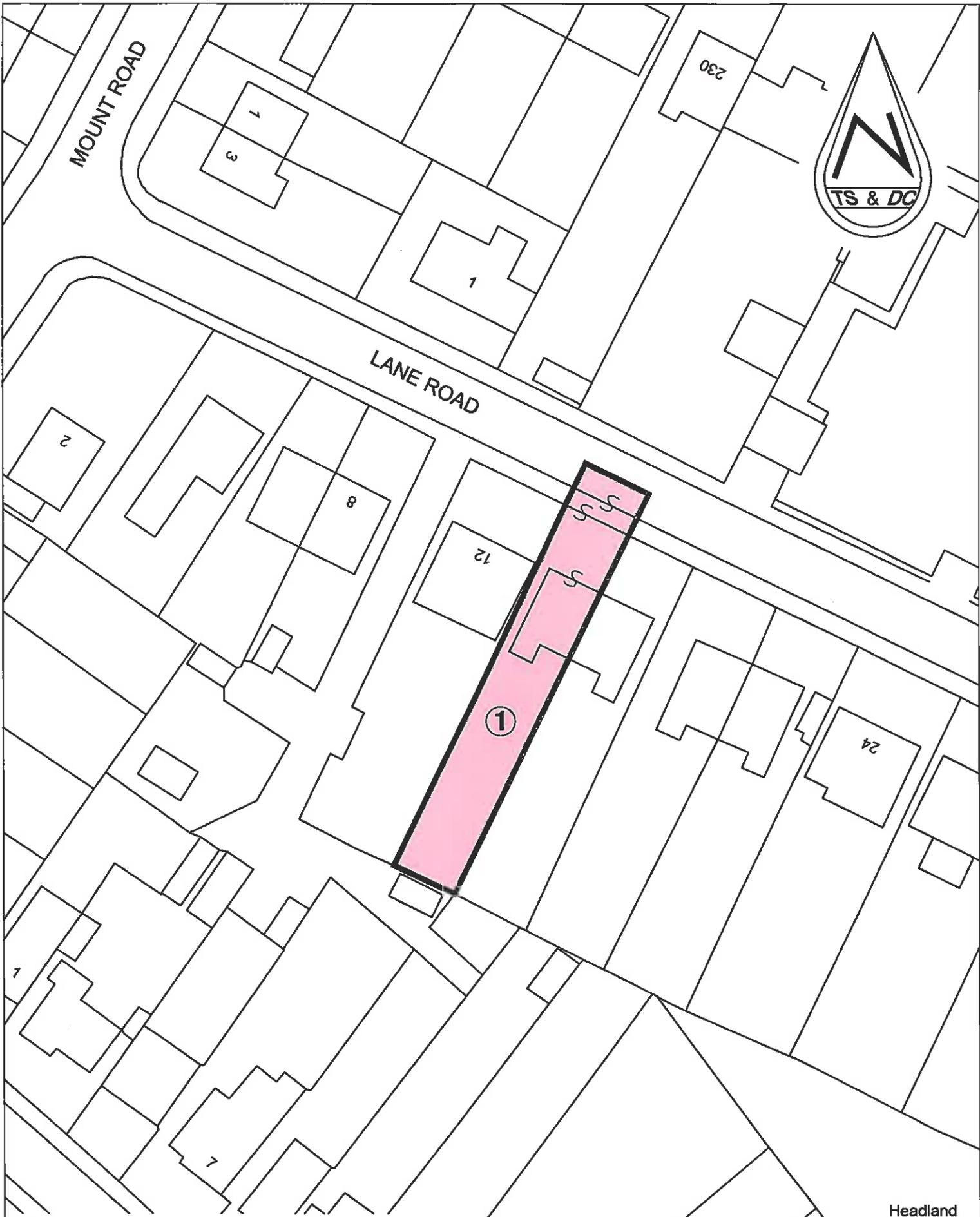
## **7.1 Corporate landlord implications**

7.1 Where applicable, corporate landlord will be required to produce valuations and arrange for the appropriate disposal of the property by property by auction.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

- An Action Plan to Deliver the Empty Property Strategy 11/01/06;
- Private Sector Empty Property Strategy 2010-2015;
- Wolverhampton Housing Needs Survey 2007.

This page is intentionally left blank



① AREA COLOURED PINK = 320.5m<sup>2</sup> OR THEREABOUTS

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100019537

Headland

date	August 2016
scale	1:500
drawn by	AJP
dwg. no.	\\Lane Road 14.dwg

THE MAP REFERRED TO IN  
 THE CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
 (14 Lane Road)  
 COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2016

**City of Wolverhampton Council**  
 Strategic Director – Place  
 Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton  
 Tel. (01902) 556556

This page is intentionally left blank

14 Lane Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, WV4 6NG



This page is intentionally left blank

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Acquisition of Privately Owned Empty Properties by agreement or Compulsory Purchase: 21 Crawford Avenue, Lanesfield, WV4 6PL	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Cabinet Member for City Assets	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Spring Vale	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Lesley Roberts, Strategic Director, City Housing	
<b>Originating service</b>	Private Sector Housing	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Richard Long	Housing Improvement Officer
	Tel	01902 555705
	Email	Richard.long@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Service Director for City Assets to negotiate terms for the acquisition of the property, and, in default of that acquisition, give authority for a compulsory purchase order (CPO) to be made under Part II Section 17 Housing Act 1985 in respect of the property.
2. Approve expenditure for the potential acquisition of the property, with subsequent capital receipts being recycled within this programme.

3. In the event that the property is improved and re-occupied to the satisfaction of the Service Director for City Assets, authorise withdrawal of the property from the Order.
4. Following any acquisition, authorise the Service Director City Assets to dispose of the property on the open market on condition that the property is refurbished and re-occupied within 6 or 12 months (as appropriate to the scale of the works).
5. Authorise the Director of Governance to –
  - a) Take all reasonable steps as soon as it is reasonably practical to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all Notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry.
  - b) Approve agreements with land owners setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order, and/or making arrangements for re-housing or relocation of any occupiers.
  - c) Approve the making of a General Vesting Declaration (the property is brought into Council ownership via this process).
  - d) Approve the disposal of the whole and/ or parts of the property by auction, tender or private treaty.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Panel to authorise the acquisition of 21 Crawford Avenue, Lanesfield, by negotiation or by the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 17 of Part II of the Housing Act 1985. Should it be possible to reach agreement on a mutually acceptable undertaking, agree to the withdrawal of the property from the Order.
- 1.2 This decision is in support of City of Wolverhampton Council Empty Properties Strategy 2010-2015 which aims to bring long term empty properties back into use.
- 1.3 The reoccupation of empty properties brings in additional income to the City Council via the New Homes Bonus paid to Local Authorities as a result of increased housing supply.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The property has been empty for a considerable period of time and is considered to be having a detrimental impact on the neighbourhood.
- 2.2 There are approximately 1,900 properties in Wolverhampton that have been empty for over 6 months with 420 of these empty over 2 years. When set in the context of the significant shortfall of housing in Wolverhampton it is clear that bringing these empty properties back into use, many of which are family homes, could have a significant impact on housing provision in the City.
- 2.3 Over the last 11 years, the Council has been very successful in persuading owners to bring their properties back into use through a combination of the provision of advice, guidance and enforcement. Around 200 empty properties are brought back into use via these interventions each year.
- 2.4 Acquisition/ CPO are only considered as a last resort. Since 2004, Cabinet has received 107 individual reports to acquire/ compulsory purchase empty residential properties. Of these, only 21% have needed to be submitted for confirmation by the secretary of state. The prospect of a CPO often brings about voluntary action by the owner.

## **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 Where it is necessary to make a Compulsory Purchase Order and this is subsequently confirmed in favour of the Council, the Council would seek to dispose of the property by tender, auction or private treaty. The property would be sold with the condition that the property is brought back to a required standard of repair within a specified time limit. This will also apply to any negotiated acquisitions.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 In the event of an acquisition the costs can be met from the £540,000 capital budget for the Empty property strategy approved by Council on 20 July 2016. The subsequent sale of the property would result in a capital receipt, ringfenced to finance future purchases through the Empty property strategy. Any non-capital costs incurred between purchase and sale, for example security measures, must be met from current private sector housing budgets.
- 4.2 The owner of the property has been served Notices under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to tidy the land/ buildings. These have not been complied with and it will therefore not be necessary to pay the additional statutory 7.5% compensation payment.
- 4.3 Bringing empty properties back into use attracts New Homes Bonus to the City Council and could result in additional council tax revenue.

[JB/30082016/Z]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 empowers local housing authorities to compulsorily acquire land houses or other properties for the provision of housing accommodation. However the acquisition must achieve a qualitative or quantitative housing gain. In order to make a Compulsory Purchase Order under this power and achieve successful confirmation, the Council will need to show compliance with the requirements of the relevant statutory provision and circular 06/2004 Compulsory Purchase and the Criche Down Rules. Where there are objections to a Compulsory Purchase Order the matter may go forward to a public inquiry and specialist Counsel may need to be engaged to present the Council's case.
- 4.2 Article 1 of Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1988 guarantees peaceful enjoyment of possessions and would be engaged by the making of a CPO. However, the contents of this report and the actions recommended are considered to be proportional and compatible with the Human Rights Act 1988, particularly bearing in mind the above checks and balances on the Local Authority's power.

[TS/23082016/D]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 Equalities implications have been considered throughout the process and in assessing the outcome. An Equality Analysis has been completed and this does not indicate any adverse implications. Bringing an empty property back into use will improve the visual amenity of the area and can make the area more welcoming to some groups covered by the Equality Act 2010, in doing so this will promote participation in public life.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 Long term empty properties can have a detrimental impact on neighbourhood sustainability and cause environmental blight. Bringing the property back into residential use will improve the appearance of the neighbourhood, enhance property conditions and contribute to the regeneration of the City, meeting the Council's strategic objectives.

## **8.0 Corporate landlord implications**

8.1 Where applicable, corporate landlord will be required to produce valuations and arrange for the appropriate disposal of the property by auction or private treaty.

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- An Action Plan to Deliver the Empty Property Strategy 11/01/06;
- Private Sector Empty Property Strategy 2010-2015;
- Wolverhampton Housing Needs Survey 2007;

This page is intentionally left blank



CRAWFORD AVENUE

HILL AVENUE

GORDON AVENUE



① AREA COLOURED PINK = 269.3m<sup>2</sup> OR THEREABOUTS

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100019537

date	August 2016
scale	1:500
drawn by	AJP
dep. no.	\\Crawford Avenue 21.dwg

THE MAP REFERRED TO IN  
THE CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
**Page 39**  
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2016

**City of Wolverhampton Council**  
Strategic Director – Place  
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton  
Tel. (01902) 556556

This page is intentionally left blank

21 Crawford Avenue, Lanesfield. WV4 6PL



This page is intentionally left blank

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Pathway to Support Programme	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders, People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Andrew Wolverson Tel Email	Head of Service – Early Intervention  01902 551272 Andrew.wolverson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	People leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	01 August 2016 23 August 2016

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve expenditure of £789,000 for the Pathways to Support Programme received from the Department of Communities and Local Government.
2. Approve the commissioning intentions of:
  - Tendering think family champions
  - Providing match funding to voluntary and third sector organisations to work with families at the earliest opportunity
  - Support adult focussed services to review their policies, procedures and processes to be 'think family' through a small grants scheme

3. Agree to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director for People and Director of Finance, to approve the award of a contract to provide Think Family Champions and the small grants for the Pathway to Support Programme when the evaluation process is complete.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report sets out the commissioning intentions for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) funded Programme, Pathway to Support. Under the Children's Trust Board partnership the City of Wolverhampton Council was successful in securing DCLG a one-off Transformation Challenge Award of £789,000 to discover new ways to work at an early intervention level with adult services. This grant supports the principles of the recent re-design of Early Intervention and in particular the aim of providing the right support, at the right level and the right time.
- 1.2 The Pathway to Support project aims to enable children and young people to receive support at the earliest possible time, preventing the need to escalate to specialist services including becoming looked after, by enabling families to work together to manage difficulty and crisis at the earliest point. The Project Board includes representatives from adult service providers including Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Learning Disability with Children and Young People, West Midlands Police and the voluntary sector.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The transformation of City of Wolverhampton Council's Children's Services has been on-going since April 2014. Details of the transformation were outlined in the Cabinet report 11 November 2015 and a follow up report in 24 February 2016.
- 2.2 The report detailed a whole system transformation, focusing on improving the outcomes of children in Wolverhampton. Cabinet agreed to support the overarching aim of Early Intervention and Prevention being to safely prevent family breakdown and thereby reducing the number of children being taken into care. The Pathway to Support programme shares this overarching aim and was recently transferred to the Early Intervention service so that it is embedded into the principles of the new service re-design.
- 2.3 Wolverhampton has seen a continued reduction in the number of Looked after Children, but this still continues to be higher than our comparators. The Pathway to Support programme is working to reduce that number through early intervention, partnership working and targeted services. It has a particular focus on working with adult facing services. The initiative in Wolverhampton is to maximise the role of adult-facing services in identifying and initiating appropriate support for the children of their clients through a whole family assessment, where the children's needs fall below the thresholds for the Council's Children's Social Care or Early Intervention and Prevention Services.

- 2.4 Services that become involved with adults with children currently have a fragmented approach to identifying and addressing the triggers associated with escalating problems resulting in the child becoming looked after including:-
- Domestic violence
  - Criminal behaviour
  - Alcohol/drug misuse
  - Mental health
  - Unemployment / low pay
  - Deprived areas
- 2.5 Intervention generally starts at a higher level of need and we want to identify triggers at a lower level contact where the involvement is as a result of adult behaviour and the professional / worker identifies children within the household e.g. an adult in prison or receiving mental health services.
- 2.6 Identifying triggers at a much earlier stage will prevent families needing high intensive support addressing the challenge of crime reduction, early mental health issues, homelessness, health issues and deprivation and preventing children becoming looked after. This work is part of the 'Think Family' practice.
- 2.7 Think Family**
- 2.7.1 Think Family practice and philosophy means helping parents/families secure better outcomes for their children through more effective and better co-ordinated interventions by adults', young people's and children's services.
- 2.7.2 Think Family means reforming systems and services provided for vulnerable children, young people and adults to secure better outcomes for children, by co-ordinating the support they receive from children's, adults' and family services. Services of all types – statutory, voluntary and independent – may all come into contact with families at risk of poor outcomes. The implications of Think Family are far reaching and extend to both universal and targeted services working with adults, young people, children and families and working across all sectors.
- 2.7.3 There are a range of different service models which support this approach. These include enhanced multi-agency working between adults' and children's services, the identification and referral of families and individuals at risk, joint services responsible for meeting both adult and child outcomes (mental health or substance misuse services for example)
- 2.8 Think Family and Troubled Families (locally known as Families in Focus)**
- 2.8.1. There is an increasing appetite both locally and nationally to ensure that public services are working together as effectively as possible to achieve sustained change for families who are involved with multiple services. Getting our work with these families right will lead to better outcomes for the families and better use of public funds.

2.8.2. Think Family approach helps to provide responses to the most vulnerable families and reduce inter-generational cycles of poor outcomes. This is intertwined with the Troubled Families (Families in Focus) programme which has a target of turning around 2840 families by 2020. Outcomes are family based and include reducing worklessness, reducing domestic violence, improving school attendance, reducing parents and young people involved in criminal behaviour, improving the health of parents and children. To achieve the payment by result, a think family approach is essential.

### 3.0 Issues

3.1 The Corporate Plan makes clear within the Stronger Communities Priority the need to promote a *'whole family' approach across the council to demonstrate and achieve positive sustained change*. Whole Family is included within the objectives; Safeguarding People in Vulnerable Situations and Strengthening Families where children are at risk.

3.2 Ofsted (2013) reported there is an existing issue with the integration of services. They said, "Most adult mental health and drug and alcohol services were not proactive in helping families to access early support and they did not give enough consideration to identifying young people who might be taking on inappropriate caring responsibilities for parents or siblings".

3.3 The Care Act 2014 introduces a number of reforms to the way that care and support for adults with care needs are met. It requires local authorities to adopt a whole system, whole council, whole-family approach, coordinating services and support around the person and their family and considering the impact of the care needs of an adult on their family, including children.

*'The intention of the whole-family approach is for local authorities to take a holistic view of the person's needs and to identify how the adult's needs for care and support impact on family members or others in their support network.'*<sup>1</sup>

3.4 The provisions for young carers included in the Care Act 2014 are intended to link with provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014. This is to provide a clear framework for local authorities to take a whole-family approach to assessing and supporting adults and young carers and deliver support in a coordinated way.

3.5 Whole family working is not a new concept and there is already a considerable focus on whole family approaches in some services. This duty placed on local authorities to consider the impact on family members and their support network, makes it essential to learn from these approaches and develop them further within adult social care.

3.6 Implementing whole family practice depends on breaking down professional barriers and achieving changes in culture, so that all practitioners see their clients in the context of their family and are willing to work with other service providers to help ensure better outcomes for a number of family members where this is in their own client's interest. This needs leadership and commitment across a wide range of local

---

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 6.65 Care and Support Statutory Guidance. Issued under the Care Act. DH 2014

partnerships and a workforce change programme to ensure the skills, referral arrangements and service protocols are in place and operating 'on the ground'.

#### **4.0 What we want to achieve**

- 4.1 The overall aim is to improve early support to children in families where the adults experience domestic abuse, learning difficulties, mental ill health, and/or substance misuse by providing the right support at an early stage by the right services, at the right level, at the right time.
- 4.2 Pathway to Support will empower services who would not normally initiate support for their clients' children to: recognise the children's needs; understand how to get help from children / young people – focussed agencies; encourage the family to take up the support on offer; and be involved in the Team around the Family.
- 4.3 Adult facing services will embed the use of the city's Early Help Assessment and associated processes in their day to day work.
- 4.4 Contribute towards the Families in Focus Programme outcomes.

#### **5.0 Commissioning Intentions**

- 5.1 To address the issues highlighted, the Pathway to Support Project Board are proposing to work with adult service providers to access support for children who are secondary to the service provided to the adult in the household. The commissioning intentions are also designed to support innovation and collaboration with partners, voluntary organisations will be actively encouraged to participate within the process. Work has already begun with the recently commissioned befriending service.
- 5.2 **The Befriending Service** is a new jointly funded project between Public Health and Pathways to Support working with health providers to offer a service that will reach out to vulnerable women, including young women or women who repeatedly have children removed from their care. The project will support them to access contraception and sexual health services and other support to address the underlying issues leading to pregnancy or those issues contributing to the risk of a child being taken into care. The contract for the service was awarded to NACRO in March and the service, which is publicised as Wolverhampton SWITCH (Supporting Women in the Community and Home) began in June 2016. To date the project is already working with 24 women.
- 5.3 **Think Family Champions** - to support adult-facing organisations and services to identify and respond to the needs of their clients' children; support initiating early help assessments; pick up and share good practice from Strengthening Families Hubs and elsewhere. The Think Family Champions will not be case holders / managers. They will facilitate the development of relationships between the adult facing services they are supporting, Strengthening Family Hubs, and their host organisation.

- 5.4 **Match funding**– Match funding will be available to support applications from voluntary and community organisations to provide low level family support to these families. Match funding will only be considered for projects with at least a three year life span.
- 5.5 **Support to review and update policies, processes and practice** within an adult facing service to bring them into line with agreed partnership Think Family approaches in the city. Help will be available to enable adult facing services to review and update policies, processes and practice. The reviewer/s will work with the governance structures, managers and staff teams in an organisation to identify any changes needed, overcome barriers to embed Think Family working in the organisation through a solution-focused approach.

## 6.0 Timescales

	Match Funding Small Grants	Policy, Process & Practice Review Small Grants	Think Family Champions Tender
CRP for approval	14 Sept 2016	14 Sept 2016	14 Sept 2016
Tender/ small grants advertised	18 Sept 2016	18 Sept 2016	18 Sept 2016
Deadline tender/ small grants submissions	Monthly submissions until Dec 2016	30 Oct 2016	30 Oct 2016
Evaluation	Monthly Jan 2017	Mid Nov 2016	Mid Nov 2016
Contract award/ notification	Monthly. Final date Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Dec 2016
Contract start date	January 2017	January 2017	January 2017

- 6.1 The Project Board members will oversee the small grant process with support from the City of Wolverhampton Children’s Commissioning. The tender process will be overseen by Children’s Commissioning.

## 7.0 Procurement Process

- 7.1 The procurement process for the match funding and policy reviews will be a small grants process and applications will be evaluated against a criterion set out in the guidance at **appendix 1**.
- 7.2 The procurement process for Think Family Champions will be an open tender process, whereby any provider interested in delivering this service may submit a bid. The opportunity will be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and Contracts Finder. The tender process will be carried out via the Council’s e-tendering. The evaluation will be on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, taking

into account social value criteria. The precise evaluation methodology is under development.

7.3 The evaluation team will comprise of;

<b>Think Family tender Process</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Andrew Wolverson	Head of Service – Early Intervention 01902 551272
Kush Patel	Children’s Commissioning 01902 5503543
Lisa Raghunanan	Strengthening Families Partnership Manager 01902 553945
Haley Macmichael	Category Manager – Procurement 01902 554129

<b>Small Grants Process</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Lisa Raghunanan	Pathway to Support Project manager 01902 553945
Satinder Kaur	Pathway to Support Manager 01902 553147
Steve Dodd	Youth Organisation Wolverhampton 01902 328985
Kathy Cole Evans	Domestic Violence Forum 01902 550052
Jo Truselle	West Midlands Police 101 Ext: 8713288
Nikki Mihajlovic (for financial evaluation only)	CWC Finance Manager 01902 552158

8.0 **Financial implications**

8.1 The Council has received one-off funding of £789,000 for Pathway to Support from DCLG. The table below shows how the grant will be allocated:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget £000</b>
Whole Family Champions ( tender)	280
Small Grants Process	100
Match funding	250
Befriending Service ( service in place)	64
Project Support cost	95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>789</b>

[NM/18072016/C]

## **9.0 Legal implications**

- 9.1 The tender process will comply with the Contract Procedures Rules section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 that govern the making of contracts for and on behalf of the Council
- 9.2 The details of the contract referred to in recommendation 3 will need to be reported via an Individual Executive Decision Notice.

[Legal Code: TS/30082016/D]

## **10.0 Equalities implications**

- 10.1 The tendering and small grants process will give due consideration to protected characteristic groups.

## **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.

**PATHWAY TO SUPPORT' MATCH FUNDING SCHEME**  
**APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES**

**Please read this eligibility document carefully before completing and signing the Proposal Form.**

The City of Wolverhampton Council, as Lead Organisation for a city-wide partnership project called 'Pathway To Support' (funded through the Department of Communities and Local Government Transformation Challenge Award), is inviting organisations to submit proposals to a Match Funding scheme as part of the Pathway To Support project which aims to enhance 'Whole Family' working in the city (the other facets are: Think Family Champions; and support to review policy & procedures to embed a Whole Family approach) and contribute to reducing numbers of Looked After Children by preventing family needs from escalating out of control.

**What is the fund about?**

The 'Pathway To Support' (P2S) Match Funding scheme has been set up to encourage and enhance applications by local organisations to external funding sources for projects which seek to provide support for families alongside adult-facing services which aim to support families by meeting the needs of the whole family at the earliest possible stage. The scheme will add a partnership stamp of approval to these applications as well as added financial value and extended potential.

P2S Match Funding is seeking to facilitate applications which will provide support, alongside adult-facing services, to families in which one or more of the adult carers is being supported in relation to one or more of the following triggers:

- Domestic violence
- Substance misuse
- Mental health
- Learning Disability

Services that support adults currently face a range of challenges in this regard include: identifying the presence and needs of any children in the family; bringing in relevant support for all members of the family so that these needs don't escalate to a point where they require statutory interventions from Children's Social Care integrating services for their clients and their children – organisations need to 'be proactive in helping families to access early support' and 'give enough consideration to identifying young people who might be taking on inappropriate caring responsibilities for parents or siblings' (Ofsted 2013).

P2S is seeking to enhance support at low levels of need – needs that do not require the lead being taken by Children's Social Care or Strengthening Families Hubs. It will do this by using existing contact with families resulting from the needs of the adult(s) with parental/caring responsibilities for children.

## What are we looking for?

Proposals that:

- **Are for match funding to support applications for external funding** (i.e. funding from sources outside of Wolverhampton)
- Voluntary and community organisations that can demonstrate a good understanding of the needs and networks in the local area
- Support work with families in Wolverhampton in which adults experiencing the triggers outlined on page 1 have caring responsibilities for children
- Will provide low level family support that improve wellbeing of the whole family and therefore the children
- Are for projects with at least a three year life span
- Show innovation in working with adult services on a ‘whole family approach.’
- Support families at an early stage and level of need by using opportunities brought about by contact with adults in relation to the triggers on page 1 and prevent the need for statutory safeguarding interventions
- Result in savings to health and social care whilst improving client outcomes
- Clearly show how they represent a development in current practice within the adult-focussed service that can become embedded as “usual practice”.
- Represent good value for money.

## Expected outcomes

***The overarching strategic outcome is for ‘Pathway to Support’ to contribute to a reduction in the number of looked after children.***

The Match Funding element of P2S aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- More low level support is offered to, taken up, and valued by families
- Families are more able to understand and meet the needs of their children
- Families feel more in control of their situation
- Better and more sustainable outcomes for families
- Adult-facing services input brings about enhanced outcomes for the adults due to the Match Funded support being available for the whole family

## What is the area of benefit?

These grants are solely for the benefit of the City’s residents, and all funded project activity must take place within the City boundaries.

## How much is available?

Each project can apply for up to £50,000 of Match Funding. You must demonstrate how the Match Funding will support your organisation money to bring in the external funding.

If you have a very innovative project that requires matched funding, the panel will consider bids over £50,000, with an upper limit of £100,000. If you are considering, a bid up to this higher value, you will need to contact the project manager who will advise on the viability of the higher value bid.

**PLEASE NOTE, HIGHER VALUE BIDS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE PROJECT MANAGER.**

Match Funding will be set aside to support external funding applications for which the results will be known within 6 months (unless specifically agreed otherwise). If an application for external funding is successful, the Match Funding will be committed to the applicant. If the application for external funding is unsuccessful, it will be re-allocated to another Match Funding applicant.

Any unallocated funds after the closing date will be reassigned to other areas of activity identified within the project.

### **Types of activities the funding can support**

Match Funding is available for **innovative low level family support provision** to support whole family working alongside adult-facing services. *This does not include funding full-time or part-time Family Support Workers.*

Match funding applicants will also need to demonstrate how their application helps to meet an identified gap in provision. This could be done through developing an application with one or more adult-facing services (please contact [Satinder.Kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Satinder.Kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or call Satinder on 01902 553147 for a list of adult-facing services that have signed up to be part of P2S) working with adult parent /carers who experience one of the triggers on page 1, or through identification of need based on the applicant organisation's own experience.

### **What doesn't this fund support?**

- Organisational core costs unless on a proportionate basis that is a direct result of the funded project
- Social events, social trips, outings, visits
- Political or religious activity or contributions towards public appeals
- Expenditure outside the grant period or use of funds not authorised by the City Council
- Purchase of land or vehicles and special needs equipment for individuals
- Building repairs or maintenance or replacement or purchase of non-essential equipment
- IT equipment is low priority; should fit-for-purpose recycled equipment be available through the City Council, it will be approved instead of new equipment and project funding adjusted accordingly, so we can make the best use of available resources.

### **What are the conditions of funding?**

Funds are subject to availability and governed by a Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council. This agreement will include delivering against your specified outcomes and evaluation plan.

Funding will be released every 4 months (by negotiation this could be payment in advance of delivery). However, continued payment will be based on successful project delivery and satisfactory monitoring.

### **What is the process for receiving and processing submissions?**

First, applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria with one of the following outcomes:

- accepted for consideration by the Assessment Panel
- accepted for consideration with minor changes which can be complete within 1 week
- returned with feedback on larger changes required and asked to resubmit
- rejected

All accepted projects will be forwarded to the Assessment Panel for decisions within one month. Recommendations from the panel will then be forwarded for approval by City of Wolverhampton Council as the lead body for the P2S project.

Due to the need to get the project underway without delay, there will be no appeals process, but feedback will be given on unsuccessful projects.

If P2S Match Funding is committed to an application for external funding that is subsequently unsuccessful, the amount set aside will be re-allocated to another Match Funding application.

### **How to apply**

Proposals are invited from *suitably experienced organisations* which can deliver the outcomes detailed. Proposals must be submitted on the submission form provided and forwarded to Satinder Kaur at [Satinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Satinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk) **no later than 3:00pm 07 December 2016.**

**The panel will be assessing proposals on a monthly basis until mid-December 2016, with expected contract services to start January 2017.**

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank