

Council Meeting

19 July 2017

Time 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

Mayor Cllr Elias Mattu (Lab)

Deputy Mayor Cllr Phil Page (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston

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

Conservative

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

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Information for the Public

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

Contact Jaswinder Kaur
Tel/Email 01902 550320 or jaswinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Tel 01902 555043

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Agenda

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)
[To receive minutes of the meeting of the 17 May 2017]
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Capital Budget Outturn 2016/17 including Quarter 1 Monitoring 2017/18**
(Pages 9 - 14)
[To review the outturn statement in respect of the Council's capital budgets for 2016 – 2017]
- 6 **EU Funded Projects - Payment of Grants to Delivery Partners** (Pages 15 - 16)
[To approve a programme of reimbursement and delegate authority to pay grants of over £50,000 to named delivery partners]
- 7 **Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2017/18** (Pages 17 - 18)
[To approve the Youth Justice Plan]
- 8 **Community Governance Review** (Pages 19 - 20)
[To provide an update on the progress of the community governance review and to make recommendations to Council thereon]
- 9 **Fire Safety Management; High Rise Tower Blocks** (Pages 21 - 36)
[To note the action being taken following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower]
- 10 **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Review and Annual Plan** (Pages 37 - 40)
[To note the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Review and Annual Plan]
- 11 **Motion on Notice** (Pages 41 - 42)
[That Council consider the motion received by Councillor Val Gibson on votes at 16]
- 12 **Questions to Cabinet Members** (Pages 43 - 44)
[That the Cabinet Member for City Economy respond to the question received]

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Annual Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 17 May 2017

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Elias Mattu (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Phil Page (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
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Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
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Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston

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Cllr Patricia Patten
Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Keith Ireland
Kevin O'Keefe
Claire Nye
Mark Taylor
Linda Sanders
Tim Johnson
Laura Phillips
Ian Fegan
Jaswinder Kaur
Colin Parr

Managing Director
Director of Governance
Director of Finance
Director
Strategic Director – People
Strategic Director - Place
Head of Business Management
Head of Communications
Democratic Services Manager
Head of Governance

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arun Photay.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests made.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

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

Resolved

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 5 April 2017, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the retiring Mayor.

4 To elect a Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor John Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman and was:

Resolved:

That Councillor Elias Mattu be elected as Mayor for the 2017/18 municipal year.

5 To appoint a Deputy Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, seconded by Councillor Keith Inston and was:

Resolved:

That Councillor Phil Page be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2017/18 municipal year.

6 To pass a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor Christine Mills, seconded by Councillor Val Gibson, and was:

Resolved:

1. That the Council expresses to Councillor Barry Findlay and Mrs Margaret Findlay its grateful appreciation for their work and service as Mayor and Mayoress of the city during the 2016/17 municipal year.

2. That a copy of the resolution of thanks to the retiring Mayor should be transcribed and presented to the retiring Mayor as a memento of his year in office.

7 Communications

Armed Forces Day

The Mayor reported that the city would be marking Armed Forces Day between the 19 and 24 June 2017. The week would begin with a flag-raising ceremony on Monday 19 June 2017 at the flagpole on the piazza, which would signify the build-up to an Armed Forces Day event in the City Centre on Saturday 24 June 2017.

Civic Sunday

The Mayor informed Councillors of the arrangements for the Civic Sunday service which was taking place on Sunday 21 at the Collegiate Church of St Peter's at 11 am.

The Mayor welcomed the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to the Council meeting.

8 The appointment of Executive, Scrutiny and Regulatory Bodies, etc.

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report (appendices one to six were tabled) on the appointment of the Cabinet and Cabinet Panels, the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels, Regulatory and other Committees, and representation on Joint Authorities/Committees and outside bodies.

Councillor Roger Lawrence proposed the recommendations and Councillor Andrew Johnson seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies as set out in appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. That the appointment, by the Leader of the Council, of Councillors to the Cabinet, the specified lead Cabinet Member roles and Cabinet Panels as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.
3. That the appointment of Councillors to the Scrutiny Board, and Scrutiny Panels, including Chairs and Vice-chairs as set out in appendix 3 to the report be approved.
4. That the appointment of Councillors to Regulatory, Oversight and other Committees and advisory groups, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the appointment of Councillor Champions, as set out in appendix 4 to the report be approved subject to Councillor Paul Sweet sitting on Corporate Parenting Board.

5. That the appointments to Joint Authorities/Committees and Outside Bodies, including lead, substitute lead and voting Councillors as set out in appendices 5 and 6 to the report be approved.



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Capital budget outturn 2016/17 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2017/18	
Referring body	Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 27 June 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Claire Nye Tel Email	Director of Finance 01902 550478 Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board Cabinet (Resources) Panel Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel	6 June 2017 27 June 2017 27 September 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £329.6 million, an increase of £13.5 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term.
2. Approve the revised medium term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £261.7 million, a decrease of £1.9 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term.
3. Approve the net additional General Fund resources of £13.5 million identified for;
 - i. CCTV - Grant to Wolverhampton Homes, a new project, of £20,000;
 - ii. Penn Kids, a new project of £325,000;

- iii. sixteen new projects totalling £11.8 million;
 - iv. sixty six existing projects net reduction totalling £518,000;
 - v. Southside – Market Relocation, an existing project, of £1.9 million.
4. Award a grant of £20,000 to Wolverhampton Homes to procure and install CCTV equipment on the Glentworth Gardens estate.
 5. Approve the receipt of grant of £325,000 awarded by Department of Education for Penn Kids to increase capacity in order to deliver 30 hours free childcare.
 6. Approve to passport the full grant awarded to the Council of £325,000 to the third party provider Penn Kids.

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. Whilst the capital budget requirements of the 'Southside – Market Relocation' project is included in this report, the capital budget required to instruct a contractor to commence the market relocation project will not be released until a further paper is considered by Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Council with the outturn position for 2016/17 and update on the 2017/18 financial performance of the General Fund and HRA capital programmes and the revised forecast for 2017/18 to 2021/22 as at quarter one of 2017/18.
- 1.2 To recommend revisions to the current approved General Fund and HRA capital programmes covering the period 2017/18 to 2021/22.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 27 June 2017 Cabinet (Resources) Panel considered a report on 'Capital budget outturn 2016/17 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2017/18'. The report can be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link:

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=7495&Ver=4>

- 2.2 Cabinet (Resources) Panel recommended to Full Council that it:

1. Approves the revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £327.7 million, an increase of £11.7 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term.
2. Approves the revised medium term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £261.7 million, a decrease of £1.9 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term.
3. Approves the net additional General Fund resources of £11.7 million identified for;
 - i. CCTV - Grant to Wolverhampton Homes, a new project, of £20,000;
 - ii. Penn Kids, a new project of £325,000;
 - iii. sixteen new projects totalling £11.8 million;
 - iv. sixty six existing projects net reduction totalling £518,000.
4. Awards a grant of £20,000 to Wolverhampton Homes to procure and install CCTV equipment on the Glentworth Gardens estate.
5. Approves the receipt of grant of £325,000 awarded by Department of Education for Penn Kids to increase capacity in order to deliver 30 hours free childcare.
6. Approves to passport the full grant awarded to the Council of £325,000 to the third party provider Penn Kids.

- 2.3 At the same Cabinet (Resources) Panel meeting a verbal update was provided regarding the project 'Southside – Market Relocation'. This update requested that the project be

increased from £3.0 million to £4.9 million and that this should be reflected in the figures to be included in this report to Full Council. The drawdown of the budget is subject to a further report being submitted to Councillors.

- 2.4 Table 1 consolidates all the changes proposed when comparing the approved General Fund budget 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	2021/22 £000	Total £000
Budget							
Approved	113,853	118,358	49,281	11,544	21,351	1,660	316,047
Cabinet (Resources) Panel 27 June 2017 recommendations	82,105	132,010	69,986	17,985	23,089	2,546	327,721
Verbal update at Cabinet (Resources) Panel 27 June 2017 recommendations	-	1,870	-	-	-	-	1,870
Projected	82,105	133,880	69,986	17,985	23,089	2,546	329,591
Variance	(31,748)	15,522	20,705	6,441	1,738	886	13,544
Financing							
Approved							
Internal resources	65,990	88,277	44,747	7,075	21,351	1,660	229,100
External resources	47,863	30,081	4,534	4,469	-	-	86,947
	113,853	118,358	49,281	11,544	21,351	1,660	316,047
Projected							
Internal resources	46,812	102,334	54,285	12,743	22,088	2,546	240,808
External resources	35,293	31,546	15,701	5,242	1,001	-	88,783
	82,105	133,880	69,986	17,985	23,089	2,546	329,591
Variance	(31,748)	15,522	20,705	6,441	1,738	886	13,544

- 2.5 Table 2 details the proposed revised medium term capital programmes, covering the period 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Table 2: Approved and forecast capital financing 2016/17 to 2021/22

2016/17 to 2021/22				
General Fund	Approved budget	Recommended budget	Variance	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	316,047	329,591	13,544	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	29,646	30,384	738	9.2%
Prudential borrowing	198,530	207,809	9,279	63.1%
Revenue contributions	924	2,615	1,691	0.8%
Subtotal	229,100	240,808	11,708	73.1%
External resources				
Grants & contributions	86,947	88,783	1,836	26.9%
Subtotal	86,947	88,783	1,836	26.9%
Total General Fund	316,047	329,591	13,544	100.0%

2016/17 to 2021/22				
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Approved budget	Recommended budget	Variance	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	263,607	261,699	(1,908)	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	25,512	30,636	5,124	11.7%
Prudential borrowing	126,115	119,042	(7,073)	45.5%
Reserves	110,377	110,351	(26)	42.2%
Subtotal	262,004	260,029	(1,975)	99.4%
External resources				
Grants & contributions	1,603	1,670	67	0.6%
Subtotal	1,603	1,670	67	0.6%
Total HRA	263,607	261,699	(1,908)	100.0%

- 2.6 The complete General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes for the period 2016/17 to 2021/22 can be viewed online on the Council's website by following the link:

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

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The financial implications have been updated to include the additional resources required. The revenue implications of the new and existing projects seeking approval for additional resources can be seen in the table below. These have been fully reflected in the treasury management budget forecasts reported to Cabinet on the 19 July 2017 in the 'Treasury Management – Annual Report 2016/17 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2017/18' report.

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
Forecast cumulative impact:					
interest	110	191	404	424	453
minimum revenue provision	14	103	167	322	350
Net revenue cumulative impact for General Fund	124	294	571	746	803

[RJ/11072017/Y]

4.0 Legal, equalities, environmental, human resources and corporate landlord implications

- 4.1 The implications are detailed in the Cabinet (Resources) Panel report of 27 June 2017.

5.0 Schedule of background papers

- 5.1 27 June 2017 Cabinet (Resources) Panel report - Capital budget outturn 2016/17 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2017/18.



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	EU Funded Projects – Payment of Grants to Delivery Partners	
Referring body	Cabinet, 19 July 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor John Reynolds	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
Accountable director	Keren Jones, City Economy	
Originating service	Skills	
Accountable employee(s)	Heather Clark Tel Email	Service Development manager 01902 555614 Heather.Clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	PLT SEB Cabinet	8 May 2017 16 May 2017 19 July 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. To approve a programme of reimbursement to pay grants to named Delivery Partners in reimbursement of costs associated with the delivery of European Union and Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funded projects, in accordance with our Lead Authority role.
2. To delegate authority to Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance to use grant resources to reimburse delivery partner for all EU funded bids in line with their detailed project plans and financial profile to reimburse named delivery partners in line with Grant Agreements. The amounts could vary between years and partners.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that Full Council approve a programme of reimbursement to pay grants to named Delivery Partners in reimbursement of costs associated with the delivery of European Union (EU) and BEIS (Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) funded projects.

2.0 Background

- 2.2 On the 19 July 2017 Cabinet are due to consider a report on EU Funded Projects – Payment of Grants to Delivery Partners.

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

Councillors are asked to refer to the report when considering the recommendations from the Cabinet.

- 2.3 Cabinet will recommend that Council:

1. Approve a programme of reimbursement to pay grants to named Delivery Partners in reimbursement of costs associated with the delivery of European Union and Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funded projects, in accordance with our Lead Authority role.
2. Delegate authority to Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance to use grant resources to reimburse delivery partner for all EU funded bids in line with their detailed project plans and financial profile to reimburse named delivery partners in line with Grant Agreements. The amounts could vary between years and partners.

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

- 3.1 The implications are discussed in the body of the Cabinet report.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Cabinet report – 19 July 2017



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2017/18	
Referring body	Cabinet, 19 July 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Val Gibson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Youth Offending Team	
Accountable employee(s)	Sally Nash Tel Email	Head of Service YOT Democracy 01902 553722 Sally.Nash@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	YOT Management Board PLT SEB Cabinet	21 June 2017 3 July 2017 11 July 2017 19 July 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

To formally approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/18.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that Full Council approve the Youth Justice Plan for 2017/18. This is the plan relating to the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) partnership under the oversight of the YOT Management Board and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership. The work of this plan is regularly reviewed by the YOT Management Board, which comprises membership from City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recovery Near You (substance misuse service), National Probation Service and the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On the 19 July 2017 Cabinet are due to consider a report on Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2017/18.

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

Councillors are asked to refer to the report when considering the recommendations from the Cabinet.

- 2.3 Cabinet will recommend that Council:

Formally approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2017-18.

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

- 3.1 The implications are discussed in the body of the Cabinet report.

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Cabinet report – 19 July 2017



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Community Governance Review	
Referring body	Special Advisory Group, 7 July 2017	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Andrew Johnson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Special Advisory Group Council	7 July 2017 19 July 2017

Recommendation for action or decision:

Council is recommended to:

1. Not implement a parish council for the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick, based on the outcomes of the community governance review.

Recommendation for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. That the outcomes of the citywide community governance review, together with proposed recommendations for Council to consider, would be reported to the Special Advisory Group in September 2017.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider recommendations from the Special Advisory Group on the community governance review.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 7 July 2017 the Special Advisory Group considered a report on the progress of the community governance review.

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

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

- 2.3 The Advisory Group recommended:

1. That it be recommended to the Council that it should not implement a parish council for the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick, based on the outcomes of the community governance review.
2. That it be noted that the outcomes of the citywide community governance review, together with proposed recommendations for Council to consider, would be reported to the Special Advisory Group in September.

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

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

4.0 Schedule of background papers

Special Advisory Group report – 7 July 2017



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Fire Safety Management; High Rise Tower Blocks	
Referring body	None	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Peter Bilson	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	
Accountable director	Lesley Roberts Strategic Director of Housing and Chief Executive Wolverhampton Homes	
Originating service	Housing Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Shaun Aldis Tel Email	Director of Operations Wolverhampton Homes 01902 552956 shaun.aldis@wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

The the action being taken following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, London on the 13th June 2017.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Full Council with detailed information and an overview of the existing high-rise tower block fire safety management regime that Wolverhampton Homes (WH) operates. The report outlines the actions Wolverhampton has taken in response to the dreadful disaster at Grenfell Tower. It also details the level of consultation undertaken to reassure our tenants and key stakeholders. The report also identifies initiatives implemented to further strengthen this regime.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) has a total of 36 high-rise tower blocks which are managed by WH on behalf of CWC. The individual blocks range from 9 -23 storeys in height and have between 33 to 126 units per block. In total, there are circa 2,164 high-rise units of which 58 are leasehold (2.7%). The vast majority of these blocks were built in the 1960's, with some in the early to mid-1970's.
In addition to the 36 high-rise tower blocks Wolverhampton also have an additional 11 blocks of flats that are 6 – 8 storeys inclusive. None of these have any cladding systems. For the purposes of this report these are excluded, however, they still form an integral part of the fire safety management regime. They are excluded as they are not tower blocks and do not share the same characteristics.
- 2.2 All the blocks are designated as general needs blocks, which means they are occupied by a mixture of families, couples and single people. In 2011, 8 high-rise tower blocks, that had previously been designated as sheltered schemes, were decommissioned and were converted back to general need accommodation. Since then, the tenant profile in these specific blocks has not fundamentally changed and the needs of residents in these blocks through age and mobility etc. remains relatively high.

3.0 Tower blocks: structure, renovation and building materials

Cladding situation

- 3.1 Initial reporting on the Grenfell fire has focussed primarily on the quality of the cladding used in the recent refurbishment works carried out to the block. Over a number of years both CWC and WH have undertaken considerable refurbishment works to our high-rise tower blocks in Wolverhampton but a direct comparison should not automatically be made to the situation that has occurred in London.
- 3.2 The type of cladding system used at Grenfell was a 'rain-screen' cladding system formed with a decorative external panel made from an Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). It is important to recognise that there are many different types of 'rain-screen' cladding and 'rain-screen' cladding is not inherently a dangerous product. The issue is the material used to manufacture the external panel which was an ACM, appears to be the cause of the rapid fire spread. It can be confirmed that none of the high-rise tower blocks in Wolverhampton are clad with ACM's.

- 3.3 Of the 36 high rise tower blocks in Wolverhampton, 18 have received some form of full or partial cladding. Of these, 12 received insulated render cladding that is fixed directly on to the blocks. This type of cladding is very different to 'rain-screen' cladding in that it is not problematic because the render/insulation bonds directly onto the original building façade. Assurance can be given that these blocks do not possess any risk. In addition, they do not have ACM panels as part of the design.
- 3.4 The remaining 6 blocks do have 'rain-screen' type cladding fitted, but again none of the systems use ACM's. The 6 blocks where 'rain-screen' cladding has been fitted can be found on 2 estates:
- a) **Graiseley Estate:** Graiseley Court, Russell Court and Grosvenor Court. These were clad as part of a regeneration programme in 2006/2007.
- b) **Heath Town Estate:** Brockfield House, Campion House and Longfield House. These were partially clad (North and South elevations only) in early 1990's as part of an estate renovation programme.
- 3.5 Of the 18 high-rise tower blocks in Wolverhampton that have received external cladding none have the same system as found at Grenfell Tower. Since the 14th June 2017, in response to Government questions WH has carried out a comprehensive review of all the blocks with external cladding. This has taken into consideration the specifications, product/manufacturers fire testing certification, working drawings, etc. This exercise has been completed for the high-rise tower blocks located on the following 7 estates:

Ref	Ward	Tower blocks	Type of Cladding System	Full/ Partial System
1	Heath Town	Brockfield House,	'rain-screen'	Partial
		Campion House		
		Longfield House		
2	Graiseley	Graiseley Court,	'rain-screen'	Full
		Russell Court		
		Grosvenor Court		
3	Merry Hill	Highfield Court	'insulated render'	Full
		St Joseph's Court		
		Pennwood Court		
4	Bilston North	Clem Attlee Court	'insulated render'	Full
		Hugh Gaitskell Court		
		Winston Churchill Court		
5	Wednesfield South	Grosvenor Court	'insulated render'	Full
		Gregory Court		
		Lathe Court		
6	Heath Town	Wodensfield Tower	'insulated render'	Full
		William Bentley Tower		
7	Ettingshall	Arthur Greenwood Court	'insulated render'	Full
Total	7	18		

- 3.6 Most of the tower blocks in Wolverhampton are constructed of cast in-situ reinforced concrete, which was originally clad with a variety of materials (typically brick, or concrete panels).
- 3.7 Over a period of years, some of these high-rise tower blocks have benefited from external refurbishment and both CWC and WH has fitted a range of products as outlined in this report. Under the current UK Building Regulations (Approved Document B), the external walls of high-rise buildings that are 18m tall and higher, should reach a minimum standard of Class 0 (when tested in accordance with the British Standards), or Class B-s3, d2 (or better) if tested under the Euroclass Classification system.
- 3.8 All the render systems and 'rain-screen' systems achieve or exceed these requirements and the cladding materials have very limited combustibility / spread of flame.
- 3.9 **On site quality assurance and testing of cladding**
On the 19th June 2017, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) asked Wolverhampton to provide detailed information on all high-rise blocks of flats that had received external cladding. All information was returned within the prescribed deadline by WH. In addition, the DCLG also requested that specific samples of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels, like the ones used on Grenfell Tower be sent to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) so that they could be tested. ACM panels are a type of flat panel that consists of two thin aluminium sheets bonded to a non-aluminium core, typically between 3 and 7mm thick'. As none of the 36 high-rise tower blocks managed by Wolverhampton Homes have such panels fitted. Therefore, there has been no requirement for testing.
- 3.10 However, as the 6 blocks at both the Graiseley Estate and Heath Town Estate have a type of 'rain-screen' cladding systems, albeit not ACM, Wolverhampton Homes arranged for the cladding to be inspected on site at both estates to check on the installation. This was undertaken on 28th and 29th June involving a contractor, Building Control, WMFS and WH staff (for the Graiseley inspection, the Fire Officer was unavailable). This was to ensure that the work was of the required quality (that it had been installed to the manufacturer's recommendations and to building regulations including the installation of appropriate fire breaks had been installed.)
- 3.11 **Graiseley Estate (Graiseley Court, Russell Court and Grosvenor Court)**
WH has received assurances from the manufacturers that their system uses only inert, solid aluminium, which following independent testing has been confirmed to be an "A1 Non-Combustible" fire rating. The cladding panel has a mineral wool insulation behind it, which is also classified as "A1 Non-Combustible". There are both horizontal and vertical firebreaks installed at regular intervals as required by the Building Regulations.
- 3.12 The manufacturer has confirmed that elsewhere in the country there have been several incidents of severe fires, which have occurred in buildings that have been clad using the same system (as was installed on the Graiseley Estate). In every instance, the fire has been fully and successfully contained and the cladding material has met the fire performance requirements in all respects.

3.13 Heath Town Estate (Brockfield House, Campion House and Longfield House)

At Heath Town, the product was also found to be holding up well, given its age, and had been installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Fire breaks were at the 8th and 15th floors, in accordance with Building Regulations at the time of installation. Regulations have subsequently been upgraded to require fire breaks at every floor. Panels have been removed for testing and as detailed below are being sent to 2 Government approved testing facilities.

3.14 As previously mentioned, Wolverhampton needs to learn from the results of the Grenfell investigation to assist in deciding whether retrospective fire measures such as sprinklers, are required. However, as Heath Town estate is poised for major refurbishment, WH is currently exploring the feasibility of different types of sprinklers, fire detection systems, and other fire measures: these will be assessed and included if necessary. A range of expert views will be taken, including consultation with WMFS before a final decision is taken. Financial resources have already been identified for emergency measures.

3.15 Whilst there is no requirement for testing the type of external panels that have been used at Graiseley and Heath Town, WH decided to seek further reassurance by having these panels independently tested. This was also requested by the CWC Executive. The Government approved Building Research Establishment (BRE) testing laboratory advises that only ACM panels are being tested as a priority. At the time of writing the report WH has requested a date from the BRE, however they cannot, and are not willing to give an appointment date when they would be able to accept and test our panels. Therefore, WH has made additional arrangements and booked samples to be sent to another Government-recommended testing house. These sample were sent by express next day delivery on the 6th July, with specific arrangement being made to undertake the tests as a matter of urgency. It has been confirmed that the testing and results will be made available by the end of July. Clearly it is a case of supply and demand with clear priority being given to ACM testing. WH is currently putting pressure on both testing organisations to accelerate their timelines.

3.16 It can be confirmed that the cladding specified on the City's blocks achieved the standard required under the then relevant fire rules and regulations. It is now apparent that the testing being undertaken is using different, more stringent, criteria, which could produce different results.

3.17 Announcement in changes to testing procedure, regime and methodology

On the 6th July, it was announced that the ACM cladding samples that had failed safety tests up to that date would now be subject to further 'large scale' testing. The Government confirmed that a new testing procedure would be adopted that would involve the assembly of a complete cladding system to a height of 9m (30ft). This demonstration wall would then be subjected to a 'severe fire'. This decision was taken after 190 out of 191 inner core samples taken from the ACM panels failed initial combustibility tests.

3.18 The Local Government Association (LGA) have welcomed these changes to the process. This follows questions having been raised concerning the nature, process and

methodology of the testing regime to date after all but one test resulted in a failure. The independent expert panel advising the Government on fire safety has now said that further testing would be carried out as the next step.

- 3.19 Up until the 6th July the tests only covered the plastic 'core' of the ACM panels, similar to those used on the Grenfell Tower. It is proposed that the new process will replicate and subject a demonstration wall to a 'severe fire in a flat breaking out of a window' and aim to establish whether it would then spread up the outside of the wall via the cladding.
- 3.20 The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have confirmed the new process will also assess how different types of ACM panels behave with different types of insulation in the event of a fire. In addition, the LGA has reinforced their earlier view that entire cladding panels, the void and the insulation behind them need to be fire tested together as a complete cladding system, rather than just the inner core of one component, the external ACM panel.
- 3.21 The approach has also been supported by the Fire Industry Association (FIA) confirming that the new test will better inform social housing providers who have ACM 'rain-screen' systems. This type of cladding has been installed in high-rise tower blocks across the country. It is understood, that in light of these latest developments and lack of clarity/advice from the Government the removal of cladding systems at 8 tower blocks in Salford, Greater Manchester has been deferred.
- 3.22 Again, it can be confirmed that Wolverhampton does not have any ACM external panel 'rain-screen' cladding systems that are referred to under sections (3.13 -3.18). The outcome of these new tests will be closely monitored.

4.0 Other council housing stock: structure, renovation and building materials

4.1 Low and medium rise properties

Since the 1990's low and medium rise housing have been in receipt of external wall insulation (EWI). Over this period some circa 2,200 low rise properties (houses and bungalows) have been in receipt of this work. In addition, there have been some circa 200 medium rise properties also included. The EWI programmes have used a variety of 'insulated rendered' systems.

- 4.2 Under the Building Regulations 2-storey flats are treated the same as houses and bungalows. Due to the design, size and complexity of these buildings the fire safety requirements are less in comparison with those applied in high-rise tower blocks. This is because it is much easier in the event of a fire, to escape from a one or two storey property.
- 4.3 All the CWC's houses, bungalows and flats (of not more than 2-floors), have had an "escape window" installed (one of the casements in a window will open wide enough to allow people to escape through it). In addition to this, whilst it is not mandatory, all 2-storey blocks of flats also have fire doors installed to the flat entrance door (where this is off a communal staircase), which helps to protect the escape route in the event of a fire. In the light of Grenfell Tower, WH proposes to write to all residents through the tenant's

newsletter and website to again confirm the reasons for having these “escape windows” to improve their awareness in the event of a fire. This will be done in conjunction with WMFS.

- 4.4 Many of these buildings have cladding materials (plastic, render etc.), which are all manufactured in accordance with the British Standards. Under the citywide Decent Homes Programme high quality external composite doors were specified and fitted after being technically evaluated by a stakeholder panel. Depending upon the specific location and property archetype these are either industry approved and tested fire rated doors or standard external quality doors. Where applicable fire certification is held for the manufacture of these doors. This same level of scrutiny and quality assurance continues to date.
- 4.5 Purpose-built blocks of flats, especially those of three floors and above, require a higher degree of fire safety and incorporate many of the characteristics that are found in tower-blocks, such as fire doors, compartmentation and emergency lighting.

5.0 Health and safety framework and governance

- 5.1 WH operates a very strict health and safety regime, particularly in respect of fire safety. WH has a fire safety policy which details the management processes in place to ensure that the company reduces the risk of fire in any of the properties and buildings it manages on behalf of CWC to an absolute minimum. This is overseen by the WH, Health and Safety Committee. In addition to this there are regular fire safety committee meetings that are held and are attended by the Director of Operations and other senior officers to ensure action and compliance. This meeting is chaired by designated responsible person for fire safety in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Both meetings receive, act upon and closely monitor a comprehensive suite of performance data. In addition, WH Board receives and scrutinises a detailed annual health and safety report.
- 5.2 Over many years WH have worked very closely with West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) to ensure effective fire safety management and trialled new initiatives. In addition, WH has liaised closely with them in the circulation of key messages to residents since the Grenfell Tower incident.
- 5.3 **How projects are prepared and delivered within the legislative framework**
Following the implementation of CDM 2015, which governs all construction activity, Wolverhampton Homes reviewed its approach to the delivery of large projects, which included creating a dedicated design team. This ensures that there are members of staff with sufficient levels of experience and capability to fulfil the comprehensive and complex duties, which includes the function of Principal Designer.

Under CDM 2015, the Principal Designer shall:

- plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety in the pre-construction phase of a project
- identify, eliminate or control all foreseeable risks
- provide relevant information to the Principal Contractor to help them plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety in the construction phase

5.4 Fire safety is one of many risks that are considered through the design phase, and detailed technical appraisals are undertaken to assess the suitability of any proposed product for its intended application. In addition to this, before any project commences consultation is undertaken with the Planning Department, Building Control and West Midlands Fire Service. Whenever necessary, the design and specification will be amended to ensure that all parties are satisfied with the final solution.

5.5 The majority of the materials specified for fire protection work are selected from the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) List of Approved Fire & Security Products and Services – “The Red Book”. (N. B. The LPCB is a trading subsidiary of the BRE).

6.0 Fire safety management and fire precaution regime

6.1 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and the supporting guidance: Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats published by the LGA provides a detailed set of requirements for managing fire safety in blocks of flats. Wolverhampton Homes complies with this fully and undertakes Fire Risk Assessments and a range of other activities in accordance with this legislation.

6.2 All high-rise tower blocks have an annual fire risk assessment which is undertaken by an external professional third party who is a qualified fire risk assessor. The fire risk assessments include the following elements that are found in the communal areas: -

- Means of Escape
- Fire Detection
- Fire Fighting Equipment
- Fire Doors and Screens
- Fire Stopping
- Lighting
- Safety Signs

6.3 Upon receipt of the fire risk assessments action plans for any identified remedial/replacement work is collated and all necessary work ordered and completed. The fire risk assessment regime is closely monitored by the Director of Operations personally, and the Chief Executive via the health and safety committee and the fire safety meetings. Overall performance is reported to and monitored by the Board.

Following a number of freedom of information requests, WH took the decision for all high-rise tower block fire risk assessments to be made available on the WH website.

6.4 In addition to the annual fire risk assessment, concierge staff undertake daily visits and fire safety inspections to all high-rise tower blocks. These checks look at and ensure that communal areas are free from risks and to ensure that tenants are complying with their tenancy agreement in terms of not storing personal possessions in communal areas. Wolverhampton Homes operates a ‘zero-tolerance’ policy. This inspection also covers visual checks of the dry/wet risers and cupboards, damage to fire doors, door closers and glazing, and so on.

- 6.5 Wolverhampton Homes operates a comprehensive non-domestic asset register that closely manages, monitors and records all certification in terms of the following:
- All dry and wet risers are regularly serviced and maintained by professional third party contractors. This includes undertaking visual and hydraulic testing at mandatory timescales.
 - All internal communal areas and stairwells are painted with class 0 fire retardant paint to prevent the spread of fire.
 - Periodic checks on the integrity of fire compartmentation: for example, fire stopping
 - Emergency lighting, communal electrical installations and lightning conductors are also periodically checked, serviced and maintained.
 - The inspection, service and maintenance of the ground-floor bin chute room door 'mechanical fire dampers' that automatically close in the event of a fire in the ground-floor bin chute room.
- 6.6 In addition to this every flat is fitted with a smoke alarm, with every incidence of fire, however small, being reported by WMFS and considered by WH.
- 6.7 **Sprinklers**
WH has been working closely with West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) for some years, to identify any specific high-risk situations, where the installation of a sprinkler system is required. To date, where specific high-risk circumstances are found to exist, WH has installed a domestic sprinkler system in the individual's home. Due to the very-high risk of a fire occurring in that individual's home, the sprinkler system helps us to safeguard the life of that person and other residents of the home, or in the block. In addition to this WH has also installed sprinklers in the ground -floor bin chute room areas.
- 6.8 Sprinkler systems are not fitted in the general communal areas in Wolverhampton high-rise tower blocks, legally, new blocks now require sprinklers, but there is no current legal requirement to retrofit existing blocks. Local authorities and social landlords were asked to consider retrofitting after the Lakanal House fire by Government following Coroner's report (rule 43 letter). WH and CWC jointly considered this carefully in 2014 and decided it did not provide sufficient benefit on its own due to wider fire safety implications. It is understood that very few blocks have been retrofitted across the country. Clearly this may well feature in recommendations emerging from the Grenfell Tower enquiry.
- 6.9 WH will continue to work very closely with West Midlands Fire Service concerning fire prevention and during the interim period will take advice from a range of experts including WMFS in terms of installing sprinkler/ fire alarm systems into existing high rise tower blocks.
- 6.10 Clear guidance, will not be available until the findings of the fire investigation has been completed following the Grenfell Tower disaster. It is expected that the Government and coroner will then make recommendations that will result in fundamental changes being made to the fire regulations and fire safety. CWC and WH will then need to act on any changes in the fire regulations and building legislation that will arise from this dreadful disaster and will comply and immediately act on the recommendations that arise.

6.11 At this moment, WH, CWC and WMFS do not know what these changes will be and until these are announced it is impossible to speculate. Should work be commissioned prior to this then it is exceedingly likely that this work may not comply with the new safety regulations. WH will closely monitor this situation especially where capital regeneration work is planned in the interim.

6.12 **Alarms**

Previously designated sheltered blocks had audible alarms fitted and wardens on site to assist residents to evacuate in the event of a fire. These alarms are now reaching the end of their useful life but considering recent events these in the interim will continue to be maintained.

All CWC housing stock have individual smoke alarms fitted.

6.13 **Gas**

It can be confirmed that unlike Grenfell Tower, no high-rise tower blocks within Wolverhampton have mains gas supplies. A number of blocks previously had gas supplies this includes: Wodensfield and William Bentley Towers these were removed as part of the estate regeneration.

6.14 **CCTV**

WH operates CCTV in all our high-rise tower blocks, these are monitored 24/7 by staff in the CCTV central control room who actively monitor all cameras. CCTV staff of course alert emergency services immediately if any incident is identified. Currently, CCTV is limited to the ground floor communal areas and external parts of the blocks. However, this will be reviewed and will form part of the wider high-rise fire safety strategy.

7.0 **Strategic risk register**

7.1 The CWC June 2017, Strategic Risk Register now includes the following: Safety concerns around the City's tower blocks. (reference 27 06/17). The risk description 'Following the recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London, there is an urgent need for the Council to ensure that the tower blocks in the City do not face the same risks, and that tenants can be assured of this'. The risk owner is: Lesley Roberts. Cabinet member: Cllr. Peter Bilson.

8.0 **Communication and reassurance given to tenants and leaseholders**

8.1 **Stay put policy**

WH, together with other social landlords across the country has a 'stay put' policy for its high-rise tower blocks, which is endorsed with West Midlands Fire Service. This policy is designed to protect our tenants in the case of a fire within the block. All our flats are designed to withstand the ingress of fire from another flat or communal area. If tenants leave their flats they risk being caught in the fire or they could impede the emergency services who will be using the stairwells to access the scene of the fire.

8.2 West Midlands Fire Service advice has been for tenants to stay put in their flats until and unless they are asked to evacuate by fire service personnel or unless the fire is within their own flat. This advice is based on tower blocks being built to withstand fire for a period and

avoids the danger of mass evacuation down what is often only one communal stairwell. Fire Service reports in the media, and confirmed locally by the WMFS on the 16 June, is that this advice is unchanged. From consultation, it seems doubtful that many residents would be willing to heed the advice at the current time.

8.3 It must be remembered that the “Stay Put” policy has worked effectively for many years. At Grenfell Tower, the ACM panels allowed fire to spread at a significant rate across the outside of the building, which bypassed the compartmentation within the block and in this unique situation “Stay Put” was no longer a viable solution.

8.4 WH undertook an exercise 2-3 years ago with the Fire Service to remind tenants what to do in the event of fire, to check all fire safety notices in blocks and prepared a leaflet and film which was widely commended. There is believed to be a good level of awareness.

8.5 **Fire prevention advice**

Arrangements were made for staff and representatives from the WMFS to visit Graiseley and Heath Town on Monday and Tuesday 19th and 20th June to advise residents about fire prevention and the stay put policy, to offer support and answer/bring back any questions. WH is grateful to Assistant Chief Gary Taylor who has kindly liaised with WH H&S officers over this and access for emergency vehicles. There are excellent working relationships with the service.

8.6 **Fire precautions and fire service checks**

It can be confirmed that between the 19th and 30th June joint site inspections had been undertaken by senior representatives of both WH and WMFS. At the time of writing the report all but 3 of our high-rise tower blocks had been visited understandably this was due to available WMFS resources. The inspections have not identified any significant issues. Any minor actions identified were acted upon as a priority. As part of the visits no issues were raised by the tenants. In fact, it has been put on record by the CWC/WH health and safety officer that WMFS again *‘commended Wolverhampton on the overall fire safety management of the blocks’*.

The WMFS were also asked to re-check if vehicle access arrangements were satisfactory although previous discussions with the WMFS about access had not identified any major issues of concern. The recent joint inspections confirmed that *‘vehicle access was reviewed and to date no issues were identified. Graiseley estate was discussed as being “tight” for a to access due to the original layout of the road.’* Consequently, it has been requested that the WMFS visit with the hydraulic platform to confirm access. In addition, it has also been requested fire crews to attend blocks out of hours in the appliances due to reports of parking issues outside of normal hours however WMFS do not seem overly concerned.

8.7 An operational audit across all 3 blocks in Graiseley was carried out by the WMFS on 29th June – no major issues were identified during the audit. At the time of writing this report the CE of Wolverhampton Homes has received verbal indications confirming these findings and is waiting a report. Wolverhampton Homes provided all stock condition data relating to fire safety, compliance and certification. Any recommended actions will be carried out

as a priority. The WMFS have been invited to carry out a similar audit on Heath Town as an additional reassurance to residents.

8.8 Information for residents and other stakeholders

Residents living in high-rise blocks have had regular updates from Wolverhampton Homes via the website and by individual letter. All residents in high-rise blocks have been advised about the type of cladding used on their blocks to reassure them of their safety, and those living in the blocks with 'rain-screen' cladding have received additional updates. Most recently they have been advised about the on-site testing and they will be sent a further update, as soon as the results have been received. All information sent to residents has included reminders about fire safety. Staff and tenants have been invited to post or telephone their questions so WH can put a running Q&A on the website – this allows issues of concern to be addressed and responded to in real time.

Information will continue to be open, honest and straightforward with questions answered as quickly as possible.

8.9 Pre-advertised visits were carried out by a Fire Officer and one of the Council's Health and Safety officers. This was done as a priority to the blocks in the Graiseley and Heath Town estates, to chat to residents about fire safety and offer face-to-face reassurance. Visits to other high-rise blocks were made in the week beginning 26th June.

8.10 Residents have been reminded about the Fire Service recommended policy of staying put in your flat in the event of a fire, unless the fire is in your flat or you are asked to evacuate. Residents in ex-sheltered blocks and other blocks with fire alarms, are being sent a letter advising them that the alarm is a warning they should be ready to evacuate when advised to do so unless the fire is in their flat. These letters will be followed up by a visit by senior staff for further reassurance.

8.11 To date WH has received 30 questions have been raised by residents on related issues or concerns. WH has responded to all of them and they have been used to compile a list of "questions and answers", that people can view via the website (there is also the facility to raise further questions).

8.12 Leaseholders

Under the leasehold agreement, leaseholders are responsible for repairs to their own front doors and the internal fixtures and fittings of the flat: kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems and electrical installations etc. There are currently 56 leasehold flats across the 36 high rise tower blocks. WH offer leaseholder services, many of which take up our offer of fitting fire doors at cost with favourable payment terms. Enforcement action is taken against those who have replaced their doors and are not able to provide appropriate fire certificates. In addition to this we are planning to visit all leaseholder properties to check the installation of smoke alarms. This visit will help WH identify any health and safety risks. Currently WH have limited powers this has been flagged up with MP's in terms of supporting changes to national law that could help support social housing providers in terms of ensuring legal compliance.

9.0 Information given to key stakeholders

- 9.1 Councillors and MPs have been kept informed about all the above actions, including details of our communication to tenants. WFTA have also been kept informed and WH attended their recent meeting to give a verbal update and answer their questions.
- 9.2 WH has supplied all information requested by the DCLG and will continue to provide any detailed information and as when requested.

10.0 Residential tower blocks managed by other organisations

- 10.1 There are 2 high-rise tower blocks within the City that were built and owned by CWC but are now managed by others:
- Hampton View on the Heath Town Estate. This block is leasehold and is currently managed by Sanctuary Housing. It has been confirmed from Sanctuary that the cladding system does not comprise of ACM's. As the block is under a leasehold agreement with CWC it is proposed that further discussions are arranged between Sanctuary, CWC and WH.
 - St.Cecilia's on the Hickman Estate. This block was sold freehold and is privately owned. WH has recently received confirmation that the cladding is not ACM.

10.2 Liberty Heights Student Accommodation

The private owners of Liberty Heights confirmed, following detailed examination:

- The 25-storey tower block has no ACM cladding panels, there are detection systems, alarms and sprinklers in place and 24 hour security – the block is considered fully fire safe.
- The 8 and 10 storey blocks have 20% ACM panels. Although there are a range of detection systems and precautionary measures in place, the owners felt as a fail-safe measure they should relocate the students in residence to other suitable accommodation pending further consideration. As it is a holiday period, it was felt that the numbers made this relatively easy. Having liaised with WMFS this was implemented and was reported in the Express and Star on the 4th July 2017.

11.0 Non -residential tower blocks: other Corporate Buildings and Schools

- 11.1 In relation to its wider portfolio, the Council's Corporate Landlord completed a status and adequacy review of all fire risk assessments and associated management plans for all its non-housing assets in Autumn 2016. Consequently a programme of high priority actions were identified and completed by April 2017, with medium priority actions due for completion by September 2017. Low priority actions are being addressed within work plans of existing staff resources.
- 11.2 With reference to schools the Department for Education have launched an online survey to form a view on the safety of school buildings. The survey has been completed and submitted to the DfE on Friday 30 June 2017.

- 11.3 The survey covers all school buildings that the Council's has responsibility for (Academy Trusts and Voluntary Aided schools have been requested to complete their own surveys) and pays particular attention to buildings that are four storey or above and/or have residential accommodation.
- 11.4 For schools delivered under the Building School for the Future programme contact is being made with the Council's Local Education Partnership responsible for their delivery, to obtain assurance that all appropriate surveys and measures are in place.
- 11.5 Corporate Landlord and Health and Safety have commissioned priority Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) for 10 schools in the city where a FRA's are required or an update assessment needs to be carried out. All other LA schools have the appropriate assessments in place.
- 11.6 Reassurance on fire safety and building compliance for all schools refurbished or rebuilt as part of the BSF programme has been requested from the Local Education Partnership.

12.0 Financial implications

- 12.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, additional fire checks and the testing carried out has been met by Wolverhampton Homes existing revenue budgets. At present sprinklers and fire alarm systems are not required to be retrospectively fitted throughout high rise tower blocks, although it is expected that this will change. At this stage, it is not possible to predict the cost of any capital works that will arise and over what period additional capital expenditure will be required. This will also depend on how the industry can respond in terms of supply and demand.
- 12.2 The Capital Budget Outturn 2016/17 including Q1 Monitoring 2017/18 report has requested delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place to approve urgent programmes of work to respond to health and safety issues and reprofile existing projects accordingly. Therefore when the need arises for additional capital works to improve fire safety on the high rise blocks the council will be able to respond quickly to approve the expenditure. [JM/10072017/D]

13.0 Legal implications

- 13.1 It is essential that all work undertaken meets the required legislative, mandatory and statutory requirements. Further updates and any significant new information will be reported to Council, Cabinet and Councillors more widely as required. [RB/07072017/Y]

14.0 Equalities implications

- 14.1 The contents of this report do not have any direct equality implications. However, following the Grenfell Tower fire the disaster has raised serious concerns relating to a range of inequality and social issues.

- 14.2 As part of the high-rise fire safety strategy a review of the lettings policy on who can be allocated and remain in high rise properties will need to be considered. This will be determined by the stay put policy and/or evacuation procedures.

15.0 Environmental implications

- 15.1 The installation of external cladding to high-rise tower blocks has been a major feature of major refurbishment programmes for 2 key reasons:
- to improve the appearance and appeal of the blocks as well the street scene and wider estate
 - improving energy efficiency measures for the block and increase insulation and help residents who may be suffering from fuel poverty.

16.0 Human resources implications

- 16.1 There are no immediate HR implications arising from this report.

17.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 17.1 As detailed in the main body of the report.

18.0 Schedule of background papers

- 18.1 Members Briefing Paper 19th June 2017
Members Briefing Paper 30th June 2017

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Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	West Midlands Combined Authority Review and Annual Plan 2017/18	
Referring body	None	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Roger Lawrence	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Business Management – Combined Authority	
Accountable employee(s)	Louise Sketchley Tel Email	Business Support Manager 01902 556356 louise.sketchley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

The West Midlands Combined Authority Review and Annual Plan 2017/18.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To note the West Midlands Combined Authority Review and Annual Plan.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Annual Plan for the Combined Authority outlines the importance of the day-to-day delivery of the strategic objectives contained within the Combined Authority ambition and vision and movement for growth. It also sets out the objectives that will develop and grow the Combined Authority agenda during 2017/18.
- 2.2 The Annual Plan was approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 21 April 2017 and launched shortly after, in May 2017.

3.0 The Annual Plan 2017/18

- 3.1 The plan and its objectives will be monitored throughout the year and given the nature and environment within which the Combined Authority operates, the Annual Plan will be flexible and adaptable to changing and developing priorities. The plan aims to continue to grow the Combined Authority at pace to deliver the significant ambition for the region.
- 3.2 The Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) Transport Plan for 2017/18 was launched alongside the Annual Plan in May 2017 and outlines the West Midlands objectives that enable people to meet their daily employment, leisure, education and shopping needs.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The details of budget and funding are covered in Appendix 2 of the WMCA Annual Plan 2017/18 link attached to this report. [MK/05072017/F]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. [RB/04072017/Y]

6.0 Equalities implications

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

7.0 Environmental implications

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

8.0 Human resources implications

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

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

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

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 WMCA Annual Plan 2017/18:

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/media/1381/wmca-annual-plan-2017-2018.pdf>

TfWM Transport Plan 2017/2018

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/media/2435/transport-plan-2017-2018.pdf>

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Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Motion on Notice	
Referring body/Person	Councillor Val Gibson	
Cabinet Members with lead responsibility	N/A	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

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

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motion received:

Votes at 16

“The Wolverhampton Youth Council has asked the City of Wolverhampton Council to support their campaign for votes for 16 year olds. The Youth Council is a democratically elected body which represents the views of young people to decision makers in the City.

This Council has a duty to have due regard to the views of the all of our residents including the young people of our City.

This Council therefore resolves to support the Wolverhampton Youth Council and national Youth Parliament campaign for votes at 16 by agreeing -

- (i) a policy of supporting votes from 16 years of age, and;
- (ii) to petition the Government to bring forward legislation to enable this.”



Meeting of the City Council

19 July 2017

Report title	Questions to Cabinet Members	
Referring body/Person	Councillor Paul Singh	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds, City Economy	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr Tel Email	Head of Governance 01902 550105 colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That the Cabinet Member for City Economy respond to the question received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For the Cabinet Member to respond to the question received:

Empty Business Properties

1. **Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for City Economy:** -

“Can the Cabinet Member advise Council on the number of empty business properties in the City of Wolverhampton?”