

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

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

<b>Item 5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Wolverhampton Interchange Programme
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council be recommended to approve the utilisation of the existing borrowing provision to support the Interchange Programme.</li> <li>2. That the submission of funding applications to the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Black Country LEP to support the Interchange Programme be approved</li> <li>3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Director of Finance to accept any grants awarded.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	The Interchange Programme is a strategic element of the Strategic Economic Plan for the City and the wider Black Country. It is anticipated that the Interchange Programme will deliver 30,000 sq. m of office, retail and leisure floor space and 2,000 jobs. The Council and partners could decide to stop progression of this scheme due to the increased costs however, for the reasons outlined in the report this would have a detrimental impact on the economic growth of the City and on future private sector investment.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	In order to progress the project whilst minimising the revenue impact on the City Council it is proposed that the actions outlined in section 3 of the report are taken.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Business Rates Discretionary Relief
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That an extension to the local business rates discretionary relief policy be approved.</li> <li>2. That it be noted, that the scheme would need to be reviewed and revised each year in line with the funding.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p>The Council could choose not to extend the local discretionary relief scheme. This option has been discounted as the Government funding provides an opportunity to mitigate increases in rates bills for local businesses.</p> <p>The Council could choose to target the relief at specific areas or business sectors. This option has been discounted because the revaluation has impacted across all areas and sectors. There is no clear evidence that a particular location or sector has been disproportionately impacted.</p> <p>The Council could design an assessment process under which businesses would have to apply to the Council for relief. This option has been discounted because the administrative costs of such a process would be significant and would delay distribution of the grant.</p> <p>The Council could choose to top up the Government funding from its own resources. This option has been discounted because of the impact on the medium term financial strategy.</p>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<p>The proposed scheme is consistent with the Government’s initial aim of assisting businesses hardest hit by the revaluation and is aligned with the principles of other local schemes across the region. The administrative process is the most straightforward possible with eligibility predominantly determined from Council data, thereby minimising the time to make awards to affected businesses.</p>
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017
---	-------------------

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Scrutiny Review of the City's Apprenticeship Offer
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	1. That the recommendations detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
<b>Options Considered</b>	The review group were presented with a range of options for consideration. The options listed were those agreed by the review group at their final meeting.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The review group are seeking reassurance about the local response to national changes in apprenticeship policy and the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. There is a skills gap in Wolverhampton which has been the subject of previous reviews.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 8</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council be recommended to approve the receipt of grant for £478,000 awarded by the Office for Ultra Low Emissions to the Council to install 24 electric vehicle charge points in the City.</li> <li>2. That Council be recommended to approve the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to transfer the full grant to the preferred private partner, once identified.</li> <li>3. That Council be recommended to reduce the Capital Programme budget for Smart and Accessible City against which this programme is assigned to £478,000 to reflect the grant allocation.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	The alternative option would be to reject the OLEV grant and should the decision be taken to progress with developing an electric charge point network in the City then funding would need to be found from an alternative source.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The OLEV grant and preferred delivery model would allow the Council to develop a network of much needed charge points across the City centre with minimal financial risk to the Council. As outlined in section 2.4 of the report, there is convincing evidence to support the introduction of a charge point network in the City. There is a risk that there will not be sufficient infrastructure in the City to support the growing number of electric vehicle owners, and Wolverhampton will fall further behind its Black Country neighbours.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the proposed amendments to the Housing Assistance Policy be approved and published as required by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 for the purposes of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to amend the policy to allow a wider range of adaptations to be undertaken including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stairlifts, modular ramps and ceiling track hoists – up to £8,000, including the provision of stairlift maintenance contracts</li> <li>• Bathroom adaptations to enable safe access to bathing and toileting facilities – up to £5,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. to provide a more comprehensive approach to assisting vulnerable households by considering “whole home” solutions rather than addressing issues on a piecemeal basis by enabling a single housing assistance proposal to be delivered under a streamlined grant/loan process.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. That the delivery of the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy programmes through Wolverhampton Homes be approved.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	The existing housing assistance policy could remain in place unamended, which would still enable some assistance to be targeted at vulnerable households to support the Council’s strategic objectives. However, this would not be making best use of the flexibilities available to the Council to provide housing assistance in the most effective manner and would impede Wolverhampton Homes in delivering a cost effective comprehensive home improvement service.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	This report proposes to utilise the Council's powers under the RRO to facilitate the delivery of assistance to vulnerable households in a more cost-effective way. Should these proposals not be approved the Council risks housing improvement programmes continuing to be delivered in a fragmented fashion leading to potential waste of resources and a less satisfactory customer experience and outcome.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 10</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Memorandum of Understanding - Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Plan
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council pursue Associate Member status of the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.</li> <li>2. That the response to the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached as Appendix 1 of the report be noted.</li> <li>3. That the process and content of development of the Black Country and West Birmingham STP and the MoU attached as Appendix 1 of the report be noted.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p><b>Option one</b> – accept the assurances stated in the MoU and become a signatory. This would be done on the basis that no legal obligation is created through becoming a signatory, signatories can leave at any time and agency governance arrangements are sovereign as stated in the draft MoU. On the other hand, whilst some specific aspects of the direction of the Black Country STP remain unclear, it may be too early for the Council to embrace the process when it may need to represent the interest of electors in response to any suggested service change.</p> <p><b>Option two</b> – accept the offer of “Associate Member” status which maintains Council involvement without voting rights. It can be argued that the Council may not need a deeper membership than “Associate Member” as most change envisaged in the Black Country STP is aimed at the NHS. This option leaves the Council free in respect of any conflict of interest which might emerge over time of which it is not currently aware. On the other hand, an “Associate Membership” status is less than full membership and this may introduce some obstacle on leadership of the place-based theme although this is not inevitable.</p> <p><b>Option three</b> – seek some changes to the draft MoU so that the specific character of the contribution of councils as partners with the NHS can be strengthened. This might allow the generalised template to be made even more specific to local needs. Depending on the extent of</p>

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

	agreement and change on this basis, the Council may then choose either option one or two outlined above or any other option it sees fit in the light of the situation.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The Cabinet may determine any option including one beyond those suggested above based on any wider consideration judged important by the Cabinet.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 11</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2016-17
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2016-2017 be endorsed and identified areas be supported for development.</li> <li>2. That further dialogue be sought with partners regarding how to respond to issues of concern and areas for further collaboration in light of potential regional changes to safer partnership arrangements.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	Production of an annual report is a statutory requirement for the Community Safety Partnership.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	The annual summary of performance is used to inform future planning and delivery around crime and community safety for the city.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 12</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Reorganisation of Educational Provision - Whitgreave Infant and Whitgreave Junior Schools
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the commencement of informal consultation on the proposed merger of Whitgreave Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School be approved.</li> <li>2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, in consultation with the Assistant Director - School Standards, to consider the outcome of informal consultation on the proposed merger of Whitgreave Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School and to determine whether or not to proceed to formal consultation.</li> </ol>
<b>Options Considered</b>	<p>Alternative options have been considered by both Council representatives and the school's governing boards including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amalgamation – The closure of both schools and the establishment of a new primary school. Whilst this option would ultimately result in the establishment of a primary school and offer the corresponding benefits, it would also result in a new school number being issued. As such, both establishments' existing Ofsted judgements would no longer be recognised.</li> <li>• Maintaining two separate schools – Continuing with the current organisation of provision. This option would not align to school aspirations and also not offer the anticipated benefits detailed in section 2.3 of the report.</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	This proposal is in line with the Council's strategic policy as detailed within the Primary School Organisation Strategy 2016-2018 and would maximise the opportunity for the benefits detailed in section 2.3 of the report to be realised.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017
---	-------------------

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017

Part 2 – Exempt items, closed to press and public

<b>Item 14</b>	
<b>Title</b>	City of Wolverhampton College
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.
<b>Options Considered</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 15</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Improving Pedestrian Safety
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.
<b>Options Considered</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017

<b>Item 16</b>	
<b>Title</b>	School Expansion Programmes
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.
<b>Options Considered</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	Not applicable.

**City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

<b>Item 17</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Procurement - award of contracts for works, goods and services
<b>Status</b>	Recommendations Approved
<b>Record of Decision</b>	1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.
<b>Options Considered</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	As detailed in the exempt report.
<b>Record of Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Dispensation Granted</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)</b>	20 September 2017