

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on Tuesday, 2 October 2018

Item 5	
Title	Council Tax Charges on Empty Properties and Second Homes Policy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That an increase in the amount of council tax premium charged for long-term empty properties with effect from 1 April 2019, subject to permissive legislation being finalised and the outcome of consultation be approved. 2 That an amendment of the Council Tax Discretionary Relief policy with effect from 1 April 2019 to reduce or remove the empty property premium in certain cases be approved.
Options Considered	<p>Option 1 - no change to existing policy. There is little evidence to suggest that the existing policy has encouraged owners to bring properties into use and have a positive impact on the national housing shortage.</p> <p>Option 2 – Increase to 100% then retain. It is difficult to predict the change in behaviour by increasing the charges. Many property owners are accustomed to paying the existing premium and some will adjust to the increased charges as they are choosing to keep the properties empty.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>There is a shortage of homes both locally and nationally. Through charging the maximum permitted by the legislation owners of empty properties are likely to bring empty properties back into use more quickly than under the current charges.</p> <p>A review of empty properties is being carried out and a new City Empty Homes Strategy is being developed linked to work with Empty Dwellings Orders. The Director of Housing is developing a new service model involving wider partnership working and incentives to bring properties back into use.</p> <p>The council tax discretionary relief policy provides support for customers who are suffering hardship or other exceptional circumstances affecting their ability to pay council tax. An amendment is recommended to reduce the premium where new owners of long term empty properties have purchased properties to live in themselves but first need to carry out major repair works to make them habitable.</p>

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Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	8 October 2018

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Item 6	
Title	Schedule of Individual Executive Decision Notices
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees be noted.
Options Considered	Not applicable in relation to the summary report.
Reasons for Decision	In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a summary of open and exempt individual executive decisions approved by the appropriate Cabinet Members following consultation with the relevant employees must be reported to the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	3 October 2018

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Item 8	
Title	2 October 2018 - Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contract for Asset Valuation be awarded to Bruton Knowles LLP of 60, Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2DJ for a duration of two years and five months from 15 October 2018 to 31 March 2021 for a total contract value of £183,000. 2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for the Client Adviser for Housing Development when the evaluation process is completed. 3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for Community Led Housing Construction Pilot Scheme in Heath Town when the evaluation process is completed. 4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of contracts for Single Homeless Persons Accommodation when the evaluation process is complete. 5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for the Supply and Delivery of Refuse Bins when the evaluation process is complete. 6. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with Strategic Director for Place, to approve the award of a contract for the Smestow Local Nature Reserve Habitat Improvement Works when the evaluation process is complete.

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7. That the contract with Ticketmaster UK Limited of 2nd Floor Regent Arcade House, 19-25 Argyll Street, London, W1F 7TS be extended for a duration of 24 months from 15 September 2025 to 14 September 2027 with an anticipated extension value of £690,000.
8. That the contract with Dimensions (UK) Limited of Building 1430, Arlington Business Park, Theale, Reading, RG7 4SA be extended for a duration of 24 months from 9 November 2018 to 8 November 2020 with an extension value of £1,261,443.
9. That an exemption from compliance with Contract Procedure Rules, to allow the transfer of funding in the amount of £1.3 million for 2018-2019 only, received from the Department of Health, to Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, who would commission the specialist health service for adults with a learning disability be approved.
10. That contracts for Supported Living Framework for People with Forensic Needs, be awarded for a duration of two years from 16 October 2018 to 15 October 2020 for a total contract value of £1.126 million to:
 - Caretech Community Services Ltd of 5th Floor, Metropolitan House, 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 1AG
 - Integra Supported Housing of 16 High Street, Pensnet, West Midlands, DY6 8XD
 - Pharos Care Ltd of Hazlewoods LLP, Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham, GL50 3AT
 - Turning Point Services Ltd of Standon House, 21 Mansell Street, London, Greater London, E1 8AA
 - Voyage Care of Voyage Care, Wall Island, Birmingham Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 0QP
 - Waymarks Limited of Suite 1 Buddle House, Buddle Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 8AW
11. That the Director of Governance be authorised to execute contracts in respect of the above as required.

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	12. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Director of Commercial Services and Director of Finance from 1 April to 14 September 2018 as set out in section 5.0 of the report be noted.
Options Considered	As detailed in the exempt report
Reasons for Decision	As detailed in the exempt report
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	8 October 2018

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Item 9	
Title	Black Country and South Staffordshire Plan Reviews - Call for Sites Submission
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the submission of a number of council owned sites to be considered for removal from the Green Belt for housing development through the Black Country Core Strategy review be approved. 2. That the submission of council owned land to be considered for removal from the Green Belt for housing or employment development through the South Staffordshire Local Plan review be approved. 3. That the need to submit sites for consideration in the South Staffordshire Local Plan Review with immediate priority, given the intention of South Staffordshire Council to issue an Issues and Options Report in autumn 2018 be noted. 4. That it be noted that, once submitted this matter would be public and would need to be referred to in the Council's formal response to South Staffordshire Plan consultations, to be approved by Cabinet. 5. That it be noted that sites removed from the Green Belt would be declared surplus and appropriated to Corporate Landlord which would be detailed in a subsequent report to be submitted to Cabinet (Resources) Panel.
Options Considered	As detailed in the exempt report.
Reasons for Decision	As detailed in the exempt report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None

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Dispensation Granted	Not applicable
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	8 October 2018