

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 11 July 2018

Title	West Midlands Second Devolution Agreement
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>Council is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the Second Devolution Deal following the conclusion of negotiations between the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Government. 2. Approve the action plan for the implementation of the Second Devolution Agreement and agree to further discussions with Government. 3. Agree to receive further reports at the appropriate time resulting from detailed requirements of the devolution deal. <p>Cabinet noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the Second Devolution Deal and recognised that it contains a number of commitments to further devolution with the potential for significant further steps. 2. The implications for Wolverhampton resulting from the contents of the Second Devolution Deal.
Options Considered	The second devolution agreement was approved by the constituent authority leaders and the Mayor and then announced by the government at the Autumn Budget on 22 November 2017. The WMCA Board gave formal approval to the agreement at its meeting of 9th February 2018.
Reasons for Decision	As stated in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of this report, the Devolution agreement and corresponding action plan will strengthen the delivery of key City priorities.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable.

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Title	Capital budget outturn 2017-2018 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2018-2019
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>Council is recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £385.9 million, an increase of £11.0 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term. 2. The revised medium-term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £328.8 million, a decrease of £1.0 million from the previously approved programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term. 3. The net additional General Fund resources of £11.0 million identified for; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 12 new projects totalling £18.3 million (as detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report); ii. 58 existing projects net decrease totalling £7.3 million (as detailed at paragraph 3.38 of the report). <p>Cabinet resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Fund virements totalling £19.7 million as detailed at Appendix 3 to the report be approved for; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. existing projects totalling £19.4 million (as detailed at paragraph 3.39 of the report); b. new projects totalling £299,000 (as detailed at paragraph 4.2 of the report). 2. That the updated schedules of works for the capital projects be approved under the following directorate;

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	<p>i. Corporate: ICT, WV Active and in relation to Education; Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Primary School Expansion Programme, Secondary School Expansion Programme and Schools Capital Maintenance (as detailed at Appendix 4 to the report);</p> <p>ii. People: Sports Investment Strategy, Co-location Programme, Children in Need - Aiming High for Disabled Children and Early Education - Two Year Education Pilot (as detailed at Appendix 5 to the report);</p> <p>iii. Place: Corporate Asset Management Programme, Urban Parks Refurbishment Programme, Disposals Programme, Accessing Growth Fund, Southside Programme, Maintenance of unclassified roads, Non - Highway Structures, Highway Improvement Programme, Safety Programme, Maintenance of classified roads, Lighting up the City and Local Growth Funding (LGF) Feasibility (as detailed at Appendix 6 to the report).</p> <p>3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the allocation of the provision of the 'Special Education Needs (SEN) Special Capital Fund Programme' to individual capital projects in order that they may be progressed in a timely manner (as detailed at paragraph 3.41 of the report).</p> <p>4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the allocation of the provision of the 'Parks Strategy and Open Space' to individual capital projects in order that they may be progressed in a timely manner (as detailed at paragraph 3.42 of the report).</p> <p>5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Environment and Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place and the Director of Finance, to finalise the business case and budget for a transit site in order that it can be progressed in a timely manner. It is anticipated that budget provision will be met from the Council's Corporate Contingency within the capital programme (as detailed at paragraph 4.9 of the report).</p>
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	<p>Cabinet noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The General Fund outturn position for 2017-2018 which stands at 70.0% of the approved capital budget. 2. The HRA outturn position for 2017-2018 which stands at 92.7% of the approved capital budget. 3. That there are four ICT projects requiring additional internal resources included in this report, but which are subject to a separate detailed project report also on this agenda. The inclusion of these projects is for budget approval purpose and is on the assumption that the approval to progress with the projects is given. As the progression is dependent on that decision, if the projects are not approved, the capital programme will be reduced accordingly. The names of the projects are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT General Programme; • ICT Disaster Recovery; • ICT Desktop Refresh; • Service LED ICT Projects.
Options Considered	This report provides an update on progress of capital projects during 2017-2018 and anticipated budget requirements for future years. The evaluation of alternative project options is detailed in individual investment proposals.
Reasons for Decision	To seek Cabinet’s recommendation to Council to approve the revised capital budgets. This will ensure that the capital programme budget reflects the latest forecasts and requirements.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable.

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Title	Treasury Management – Annual Report 2017-2018 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2018-2019
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>Council is recommended to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council operated within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council’s approved Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2017-2018. 2. Revenue underspends of £1.6 million for the General Fund and £731,000 for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2017-2018. 3. A revenue underspend of £1.2 million for the General Fund and an overspend of £263,000 for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2018-2019, subject to the impact of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) review. 4. That the detailed guidance notes for the new Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code are still to be published by CIPFA and therefore the Treasury Management Statements for 2018-2019 are still based on the Council’s interpretation of these Codes. 5. The revised guidance on Local Government Investments and Minimum Revenue Provision is under review by the Director of Finance and updates will be provided to Councillors in due course. <p>Cabinet noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The financial information included in this report is based on the ‘Capital budget outturn 2017-2018 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2018-2019’ report also on the agenda for this meeting. The capital report is subject to a report being separately approved by Cabinet also at this meeting. Therefore, if this approval is not obtained, a revised version of this report will be presented to Council on 18 July 2018. 2. That it is proposed that a total of £900,000 of the treasury underspend in 2017-2018 will be transferred into the Treasury Management Equalisation Reserve, this is subject to approval by Cabinet in the Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2017-2018 report which is also being considered at this meeting (paragraph 3.5).

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Options Considered	As this is a monitoring report of treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, there are no alternative options available.
Reasons for Decision	This report provides an update on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable.

Title	Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	Council is recommended to: Approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019.
Options Considered	The local authority has a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth services. The youth justice plan 2018-2019 has been developed following consultation with partner agencies.
Reasons for Decision	The Youth Justice Board announced its strategic priorities for 2018-2021 in May 2018. The key areas of focus are: the disproportionate representation of children from some Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in the youth justice system, local services' practice to include the importance of understanding and evaluating out of court disposals, national standards for youth justice, resettlement and transitions between services and safety in custody and secure schools. The local priorities that have been identified for Wolverhampton not only respond to the local areas of need but also represent an alignment with the strategic priorities identified by the YJB.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None

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Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable.

Title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the high-level budget strategy for 2019-2020 be approved, including directorate level budget reduction targets, for inclusion in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020, to be reported to Cabinet in October 2018. 2. That work continues between July and October 2018 to further develop and identify new budget reduction and income generation proposals towards the directorate level budget reduction targets for 2019-2020, in order to ensure that a balanced budget can be set in 2019-2020. 3. That progress on the development of budget reduction and income generation proposals be reported to Cabinet in October 2018 for approval to proceed to the formal consultation stage of the budget process. 4. That further options are explored between July and October 2018 to address the updated projected budget deficit of £3.3 million for 2019-2020 based on the Council’s high-level strategy. <p>Cabinet noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a significant element of the high-level budget strategy for 2019-2020 relate to oneoff opportunities that can be achieved in 2019-2020. 2. That the updated projected deficit assumes the achievement of budget reduction proposals amounting to £28.3 million over the two-year period from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020. 3. That, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council. 4. That there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future funding streams for local authorities particularly with regarding 2020-2021 onwards. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2020, the Fair Funding Review and potential pressures arising as a result of new

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	<p>responsibilities will impact upon the Council’s budget. At the point that further information is known it will be incorporated into future reports to Councillors.</p> <p>5. That the General Fund revenue outturn position for 2017-2018 was a net underspend of £781,000 (-0.35%) against the net budget requirement of £222.6 million, after meeting the net cost of redundancy and pension strain, after the use of capital receipt flexibility and, contributions to essential specific reserves, as reported to Cabinet at this meeting in the Revenue Budget Outturn 2017-2018 report.</p> <p>6. That whilst the positive General Fund outturn position during 2017-2018, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, will help to support the Council’s short term financial position, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; as detailed in this report.</p> <p>7. That the Council’s General Fund Balance remains at £10.0 million; the minimum balance as determined in the Council’s approved Reserves and Balances Policy. Emphasis therefore continues to be placed on identifying budget reductions and income generation proposals to meet the projected budget deficit over the medium term.</p> <p>8. That the 2019-2020 budget timetable will, as in previous years, include an updated report presented to Cabinet in October 2018 detailing budget reduction and income generation proposals that will be subject to formal budget consultation during October – December 2018. Further to this, an update on all budget assumptions and the Provisional Local Government Settlement will be presented to Cabinet by January 2019, with the final budget report due to be approved by Full Council in March 2019.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>In determining the proposed high level budget strategy for 2019-2020, consideration has been made to the deliverability of budget reduction and income generation proposals and budget pressures. If we were to not implement the budget strategy as proposed in this report, alternative options would need to be identified in order for the Council to set a balanced budget in 2019-2020. This may therefore potentially impact upon service provision.</p>
<p>Reasons for Decision</p>	<p>It is recommended that the high-level budget strategy for 2019-2020, including directorate level budget reduction targets, is approved by Cabinet for further development between July and October 2018. Cabinet will be provided with an update on progress in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020 report which will be presented to Cabinet in October 2018. In approving this strategy, the</p>

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	Council will be working towards identifying options to be able to set a balanced budget for 2019-2020.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018

Title	Reserves Provisions and Balances 2017-2018
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as detailed in tables 2, 3 and 4 be approved. 2. That the expenditure from provisions for their purposes as set out in Appendix 3 and 4, up to the value held in each provision as at 31 March 2018 be approved. 3. That authority continue to be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to allocate funds from the Budget Contingency Reserve, the Regeneration Reserve, the Efficiency Reserve, the Transformation Reserve, the Development Reserve, the Regional Work Reserve, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Reserve, the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve, the Treasury Management Equalisation Reserve, the Pension Deficit Recovery Reserve and the Budget Strategy Reserve. 4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to allocate funds from the Highways Management Reserve. 5. That it be noted, the level of the Council's earmarked reserves, provisions and general balances as at 31 March 2018 and the purposes for which they are being held, as detailed in Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4. 6. That it be noted, the relevance and adequacy of earmarked reserves and general balances will be reviewed as required by the Constitution during the 2019-2020 budget setting process.

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	<p>7. That it be noted, the allocation of funding from all earmarked reserves will be reported to Cabinet (Resources) Panel in the scheduled quarterly budget monitoring reports.</p> <p>8. That it be noted, the Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel will scrutinise the use of reserves as part of the budget setting process as in previous years.</p> <p>9. That it be noted, the Director of Finance considers that the overall level of all reserves, provisions and balances is sufficient to meet the likely level of obligations to be met from reserves, provisions and general balances in the short term.</p> <p>10. That it be noted, the positive General Fund outturn position during 2017-2018, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, will help to support the Council’s short term financial position, enabling one-off investment to support transformation of the Council. However, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; namely identifying an additional £19.5 million of budget reduction and income generation proposals over the period of 2019-2020. Cabinet will be presented with a report at this meeting detailing the progress towards identifying £19.5 million of budget reduction and income generation proposals for 2019-2020.</p> <p>11. That it be noted, the figures quoted in the report are still subject to statutory audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP as part of the 2017-2018 accounts closedown process.</p>
Options Considered	The write-offs and use of reserve requests requiring the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.
Reasons for Decision	Contribution to and from reserves requires the approval from Cabinet (Resources) Panel. The reserve amendments detailed in this report are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018

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Title	Revenue Budget Outturn 2017- 2018
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the net surplus after taxation of £74,000 of Yoo Recruit Limited to be retained by the company to enable further business development. 2. That the write off of four non-domestic rates totalling £45,817.82 be approved as detailed in Appendix 7 to this report. 3. That the write off of three sundry debts totalling £35,792.68 be approved as detailed in Appendix 8 to this report. 4. That the write off of two council tax accounts totalling £11,600.09 be approved as detailed in Appendix 9 to this report. 5. That 27 virements totalling £5.6 million be approved for transfer within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 10 to this report. 6. That it be noted the revenue outturn position for 2017-2018 for the General Fund; a net underspend of £781,000 (-0.35%) was achieved against the net budget requirement of £222.6 million, after meeting the net cost of redundancy and pension strain, after the use of capital receipt flexibility, and contributions to essential earmarked reserves. 7. That it be noted whilst the positive General Fund outturn position during 2017-2018, and the resulting adjustments to reserves, will help to support the Council's short term financial position, it does not address the challenging financial position that the Council finds itself in over the medium term; namely identifying an additional £19.5 million of budget reduction and income generation proposals over the period to 2019-2020. Cabinet will be presented with a report at this meeting detailing the progress towards identifying £19.5 million of budget reduction and income generation proposals for 2019-2020. 8. That it be noted a comprehensive review of all services will be undertaken following the positive 2017-2018 General Fund outturn position to identify any new budget reduction or income generation opportunities; Cabinet will be provided with an update on progress in the October 2018 budget report.

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9. That it be noted the General Fund outturn position takes into account a number of proposed transfers to and from reserves and provisions for which approval is sought in the Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2017-2018 report to be presented at this meeting.
10. That it be noted that Schools which remain under the control of the City of Wolverhampton Council drew down a net £940,000 of their reserves during 2017-2018 and after adjusting for the balance attributable to academies, taking the total accumulated reserves to £6.9 million at 31 March 2018.
11. That it be noted the Housing Revenue Account revenue outturn position for the year was a surplus before allocations of £23.6 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of £16.8 million.
12. That it be noted the draft financial statements of Yoo Recruit Limited will be subject to external audit.
13. That it be noted as a result of recruitment through Yoo Recruit Limited, the Council has been able to avoid fees which would otherwise have been incurred, including approximately £225,000 in relation to the permanent recruitment of individuals who had been previously employed on a temporary basis through the agency.
14. That it be noted the Collection Fund outturned with a £13.0 million surplus during 2017-2018; this resulted in an overall deficit of £200,000 to be carried forward. In 2014-2015, as a result of the adverse outturn against the Collection Fund, primarily owing to the impact of appeals against Business Rates, over which the Council has no control, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Business Rates Equalisation reserve to equalise the impact of appeals on the Council. In the Reserves, Provisions and Balances report to be presented to Cabinet at this meeting, approval is sought to increase that reserve in 2017-2018 to support the Council over the medium term.
15. That it be noted the non-domestic rates accounts totalling £372,552.17 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
16. That it be noted that 1,403 council tax accounts totalling £278,262.58 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
16. That it be noted 38 sundry debt accounts totalling £125,465.96 have been approved for write off by the

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	<p>Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>18. That it be noted 18 housing benefit debt accounts totalling £4,819.72 have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p>
Options Considered	The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests requiring the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources.
Reasons for Decision	<p>In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources. The Council's financial procedure rules also require that the Section 151 Officer shall submit a report setting out the Outturn within four months of the</p> <p>financial year end.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018

Title	ICT Capital Investment Programme 2018-2019 to 2019-2020
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the reprofiling and proposed extension of the ICT capital programme for the years 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 at an additional cost of £4.0 million be approved. 2. That it be noted the additional internal resources required for the reprofiling and extension of the ICT capital programme for the years 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 have been incorporated into the 'Capital budget outturn 2017-2018 including quarter one capital budget monitoring 2018-2019' report which is also on this agenda, and will subsequently be reported to Full Council for approval on the 18 July

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	2018, assuming that Cabinet approval to progress with the projects is given. As the progression is dependent on that decision, if the projects are not approved, the capital programme will be reduced accordingly.
Options Considered	<p>This report requests funding to support a varying number of ICT schemes. The financial implications section below shows that borrowing is the current preferred funding source, however, if capital receipts are available and prove to be a more cost-effective funding source these will be used to reduce the cost of borrowing.</p> <p>All schemes where funding has been requested will be assessed individually to ensure that the most appropriate solution is selected in order to satisfy business requirements and deliver the best value for money. Business cases will also be written for larger projects to ensure that the project is viable and worthwhile.</p>
Reasons for Decision	Borrowing is the current preferred funding source, however, capital receipts are constantly monitored and will be used if they prove to be a more cost effective funding source for the council.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018

Title	Local Council Tax Support Scheme
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>1. That the publication of a draft local council tax support scheme for consultation, for 2019-2020 onwards be approved, containing the following revisions:</p> <p>a. A minimum change rule where changes in weekly entitlement of £3 or less are not applied.</p> <p>b. Financial and household information used to assess entitlement to Universal Credit to be used to</p>

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	<p>determine council tax support entitlement.</p> <p>c. The notification of an award of specified benefits to count as a claim for council tax support.</p> <p>2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Head of Revenues and Benefits, to approve the documents to be issued for consultation.</p> <p>3. That it be noted, following the outcome of the consultation a further report would be submitted to Cabinet on 23 January 2019 to enable a final scheme to be recommended to Council on 6 March 2019.</p>
<p>Options Considered</p>	<p>Option 1 – do nothing</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On line claims process captures what is needed for assessment. • Comparability with pensioner scheme, staff don't have to operate two sets of rules. • Annual uprating follows rules for pensioner scheme and housing benefit. • Eligibility tapered based on every £1 of income – gradual withdrawal of support. • Cost of scheme can be varied relatively simply through the maximum liability percentage. • No software changes needed <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated increase in administrative cost as universal credit caseload increases. • Impact on recovery if council tax support award changes and action resets. • Complexity of scheme – difficult for customers to understand. • High volume of information and evidence needed for assessment. • Every change must be notified by customer. <p>Option 2 – introduce a minimum change rule and use income data from Universal Credit calculation</p> <p>Advantages:</p>

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- Retains existing scheme rules so as option 1 plus –
- Can be combined with new technology to reduce administration costs.
- Eliminates revised billing for small changes.
- Eliminates the need for additional information to be collected where Universal Credit is in payment.

Disadvantages:

- Nothing done to simplify scheme rules.

Option 3 – develop a simplified scheme

Advantages:

- Can be designed to align with universal credit.
- Simpler for customers to understand.
- Less information needed for assessment therefore potential for reduced administration costs.
- Customers need only report changes that move them to a different income band.

Disadvantages:

- Not enough information about the relationship with Universal Credit to design a new scheme with sufficient confidence about which groups might be better or worse off.
- Can create 'cliff edges' between bands.

For the reasons set out above, option 2 is recommended and Cabinet is asked for permission to consult on amending the scheme by:

- a. introducing a minimum change rule based on a de-minimis value of a £3 change in weekly entitlement
- b. using the income and household data contained in the Universal Credit notification to calculate council tax support entitlement.
- c. Simplifying the claim process by using notification of an award of Income Support, Jobseeker's

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	Allowance (income-based), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related) or Universal Credit as a claim for council tax support.
Reasons for Decision	<p>At this stage Cabinet is only being asked to agree a draft revision to the council tax support scheme that will be subject to public consultation.</p> <p>The proposed revisions aim to reduce the administrative costs of the scheme without making major changes to the level of award under the scheme.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation will help refine the final scheme that Council will be asked to approve.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	17 July 2018

Title	Open Space Strategy and Action Plan Update
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the City of Wolverhampton Open Space Strategy and Action Plan Update be adopted.
Options Considered	The alternative option to updating the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan would be to continue to use an out-of-date document for decision-making purposes. This would reduce the effectiveness of the document to enable decision-making on a range of open space issues.
Reasons for Decision	It is important that the Council and partners are able to make robust decisions on open space issues based on up-to-date evidence. If the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan is not updated on a regular basis there is a risk that this would reduce the effectiveness of the document to enable decision-making on a range of open space issues.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.

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Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018
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Title	Right to Buy Policy Update
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<p>1. That the set of criteria as set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report be adopted when considering an application to purchase a former Right to Buy property was received by the Council.</p> <p>2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member of City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Service Director City Housing, for agreeing the buy back of a former Right to Buy property as set out at paragraph 3.7 of the report.</p> <p>3. That authority be delegated to the Service Director City Housing for refusing applications to buy back former Right to Buy properties as set out at paragraph 3.7 of the report.</p> <p>4. That the use of discretion to waive some or all of the repayment of Right to Buy Discount when a former Right to Buy property is sold on within five years in the exceptional circumstances set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report be approved.</p> <p>5. That the use of the 'Request to Waive Repayment of Discount Awarded Under The Right to Buy Scheme' form at appendix 1 to assist in the collation of evidence to prove exceptional circumstances and minimise the risk of abuse and the risk of fraud as set out at paragraph 4.8 of the report be approved.</p> <p>6. That as per paragraph 5.6 of the report, the Council charging professional fees to cover both legal and valuation work required when served with a notice to extend the lease of a former Right to Buy property be approved.</p> <p>7. That as per paragraph 6.7 of the report, the Council charging professional fees to cover both legal and valuation work required when served with a notice for the collective purchase of the freehold of a block of flats, where the Council currently holds the freehold be approved.</p>

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Options Considered	The alternative option would be not to introduce any locally determined policy, but to be reliant on the legislation and regulations. This however would not provide for areas of discretion set out within the regulations, which may make applications longer and more difficult to assess.
Reasons for Decision	The recommendations if agreed will lead to a consistent approach across Council officers when dealing with requests relating to former Right to Buy properties. This in turn will ensure applications are assessed more quickly and should result in fewer reviews on decisions.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	17 July 2018

Title	Exclusion of press and public
Status	For Determination
Record of Decision	That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual, information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual and/or information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Options Considered	Not applicable.
Reasons for Decision	Not applicable.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.

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Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	Not applicable
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Title	WV Living Progress and Business Plan Update
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the recommendations be approved as detailed in the exempt report.
Options Considered	As outlined in the exempt report.
Reasons for Decision	As outlined in the exempt report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	Tim Johnson and Mark Taylor declared non-pecuniary as Directors of WV Living.
Dispensation Granted	Yes
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018

Title	Acquisition of properties by the Housing Revenue Account
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the recommendations be approved as detailed in the exempt report.
Options Considered	As outlined in the exempt report.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 11 July 2018

Reasons for Decision	As outlined in the exempt report.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	None
Dispensation Granted	Not applicable.
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	18 July 2018