

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That it be approved that the Budget Reduction and Income Generation proposals amounting to £695,000 in 2019-2020 proceed to the formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process. 2. That it be approved that Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions totalling a net reduction of £4.7 million in 2019-2020 be incorporated into the 2019-2020 draft budget. 3. That authority be delegated to the responsible Director and the Director of Finance to implement Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions at the earliest opportunity where the proposal is not reliant on the outcome of formal budget consultation. 4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the final budget consultation arrangements. 5. That it be approved that further options are explored between October 2018 and January 2019 to address the updated projected budget deficit of in the region of £6.0 million for 2019-2020 based on the Council's high-level strategy. 6. That it be noted that, due to the uncertainty and increasing pressures over the medium term, the overall level of risk associated with the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 is assessed as Red for the first time since February 2016. 7. That it be noted that the updated projected deficit assumes the achievement of budget reduction and income generation proposals amounting to £28.3 million over the two-year period from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020. Over the eight financial years the Council has identified budget reductions in excess of £220.0 million. This continues to be the most significant financial challenge that the Council has ever faced. 8. That it be noted that the successful recovery of overpaid VAT has been granted at £1.8 million, approximately £200,000 lower than anticipated in the July 2018 report to Cabinet. 9. That it be noted that, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to change. This could therefore result in alterations to the financial position faced by the Council.

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	<p>10. That it be noted 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 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>11. That it be noted 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>12. That it be noted that the 2019-2020 budget timetable will, as in previous years, include an update on all budget assumptions and the Provisional Local Government Settlement which will be presented to Cabinet in January 2019, with the final budget report due to be approved by Full Council in March 2019.</p> <p>13. That it be noted that the HR implications as outlined in the report and that reductions in employee numbers will be achieved in line with the Council's HR policies.</p>
Options Considered	<p>It is recommended that the high-level budget strategy for 2019-2020, including Financial Transactions, Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals, as set out in this report, is approved by Cabinet for formal budget consultation and scrutiny where necessary. Cabinet will be provided with an update following formal budget consultation and scrutiny in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020 report which will be presented to Cabinet in February 2019. In approving this strategy, the Council will be working towards identifying options to be able to set a balanced budget for 2019-2020.</p>
Reasons for Decision	<p>It is recommended that the high-level budget strategy for 2019-2020, including Financial Transactions, Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals, as set out in this report, is approved by Cabinet for formal budget consultation and scrutiny where necessary. Cabinet will be provided with an update following formal budget consultation and scrutiny in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020 report which will be presented to Cabinet in February 2019. In approving this strategy, the Council will be working towards identifying options to be able to set a balanced budget for 2019-2020.</p>
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018
Title	
	Governance Review and Scheme for the Transfer of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Functions
Status	
	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the prepared Governance Review and Scheme outlining the proposed model for Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority governance of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner functions be agreed and fed back to the West Midlands Combined Authority Board. 2. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director, to make minor amendments to the Governance review and Scheme on completion of the Local Authority approval process and prior to public consultation. 3. That it be noted that the proposed public consultation for the scheme and proposed governance model will start following the West Midlands Combined Authority Board meeting on 14 November 2018. 4. That the next steps and timetable to meet single Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2020 be noted.
Options Considered	
	When considering the Devolution Deal on the 9 February 2018, the WMCA Board agreed that “the Government, West Midlands Combined Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner will enter into discussions with the Mayor regarding a governance model for incorporating the role and powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner into the Mayor’s role and powers, provided that the final governance model proposed following discussions is agreed by each of the Constituent Authorities, the Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner”.
Reasons for Decision	
	On 14 September 2018, the WMCA Board agreed that the Governance Review and Scheme are considered by Constituent Authorities and the PCC before formal public consultation, in line with the requirement to elect a Mayor with PCC responsibility in 2020, as agreed by the Board on 20 July 2018.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	
	N/A
Dispensation Granted	
	N/A

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018
Title	
Title	Amendment to Housing Enforcement and Charging Policy
Status	
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That an amendment to the Council’s housing enforcement and charging policy to underpin a more robust, proactive and zero tolerance approach to enforcement be approved. 2. That the adoption of a new scheme of discounts applied to licensing fees, up to a maximum of 50% cumulative discount, be approved as set out at paragraph 15.4 of the report, to encourage the active engagement of landlords with accreditation at a local, regional and national level, as part of the policy. 3. That the adoption of changes to the duration of Houses in Multiple Occupation licences to encourage landlords to apply for a Houses in Multiple Occupation licence in a timely manner be approved as set out in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the report. 4. That penalties for late submission of Houses in Multiple Occupation licence applications be approved as discussed in paragraph 17 of the report. 5. That a revised discount structure for the early payment of Civil Penalties be approved as discussed in paragraph 22 of the report.
Options Considered	
Options Considered	The alternative of continuing to enforce in a reactive and light touch way will mean that some of our most vulnerable residents who cannot complain to us will continue to be exploited by criminal landlords and be forced to live in the worst housing conditions.
Reasons for Decision	
Reasons for Decision	Worsening conditions within the private rented sector along with additional powers from Central Government with direction to use them to their maximum capacity make the proactive, zero tolerance enforcement approach the most appropriate and effective way to tackle this very serious issue.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	
Dispensation Granted	N/A

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Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018
Title	Progress on Black Country Core Strategy Review
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Local Development Scheme, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved to come into effect from 24 October 2018. 2. That the Statement of Community Involvement, attached at Appendix 2 to this report, be approved to come into effect from 24 October 2018. 3. That it be agreed to receive a further report in Autumn 2019 to approve consultation on the Draft Black Country Plan. 4. That progress to date on the Black Country Core Strategy review be noted and the new scope, name and timetable for the review be endorsed.
Options Considered	City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to the Black Country Core Strategy review. The alternative option would be to carry on with the existing preparation timetable. This would not now deliver the type of Plan required.
Reasons for Decision	It is important that Wolverhampton is covered by an up-to-date Local Plan, Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement, in order to meet statutory requirements, and to support regeneration and investment in the City and protect areas of value from development.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018

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Title	Strategic Asset Plan
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the implementation and adoption of a revised City of Wolverhampton Council Strategic Asset Plan and associated Action Plan be approved.
Options Considered	The alternative option to adopting a revised Strategic Asset Plan is to continue without a Strategic Asset Plan that reflects the current challenges faced when making decisions on the assets within the CWC land and buildings portfolio. Continuing without a current Strategic Asset Plan will also result in an inconsistent approach to property asset management and an imbalanced approach to achieving CWC priorities.
Reasons for Decision	It is important that the Council can make robust decisions on a range of property asset management issues, based on clear principles that are aligned with Council priorities. If a current and valid Strategic Asset Plan is not in place there is a risk that property asset management decisions are made which are contrary to CWC's aims, objectives and aspirations.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018

Title	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	That the final report of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018 be endorsed.
Options Considered	The Annual Report is a statutory requirement. This Annual Report attempts to offer the reader a format which is accessible and understood. The bringing together the reports of the Adults Safeguarding Board and the Children's Safeguarding Board is an attempt to align the business of both Boards and encourage a

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	'Think Family' approach.
Reasons for Decision	Cabinet have a statutory responsibility to have sight of the Safeguarding Board Annual Reports as the Local Authority is a lead partner in the delivery of the safeguarding agenda. Cabinet oversight supports rigorous governance of Safeguarding within the City of Wolverhampton and enhances the credibility of the priorities of the safeguarding partnership.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018

Title	School Accessibility Strategy
Status	Recommendations Approved
Record of Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the School Accessibility Strategy be approved. 2. That the summary of consultation responses listed as Appendix 3 to the report be noted.
Options Considered	The Council is required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an Accessibility Strategy in which it promotes better access in school for pupils with disabilities.
Reasons for Decision	<p>The objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the extent to which pupils with special educational needs and/or disability can participate in the school curriculum; 2. Ensure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disability are able to gain maximum benefit from their time in education through improving facilities and services provided or offered by schools. 3. Improve the delivery of information to pupils with special educational needs and/or disability. <p>To support schools to further develop robust and effective Disability Equality Schemes and Accessibility</p>

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	Plans. To ensure compliance with statutory regulations.
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018

Title	Exclusion of press and public
Status	Recommendations Approved
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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Options Considered	N/A
Reasons for Decision	N/A
Record of Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	N/A

City of Wolverhampton Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Title	Black Country Coroner Collaboration Agreement
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	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A
Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018

Title	Primary and Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019 - Fund Allocations and 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	N/A
Dispensation Granted	N/A

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Decision available for implementation (subject to call-in)	24 October 2018
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